ISSN 0229-0103

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

28 JUL

$1.50

MIND GAME II

HIGH SOCIETY

DAVE SIM
CREATOR WRITER/ARTIST/LETTERER
PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
NARRATION/CHARACTER VOICES

DENI LOUBERT
ORIGINAL PUBLISHER

JOHN SCRUDDER
PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
CEREBUS DIGITAL
BEHIND THE PANELS
www.behindthepanels.com

GEORGE PETER GATSIS
AUDIO & DIGITAL TECHNICAL PRODUCER
SOUND EFFECTS & MUSIC DESIGNER
ARCHIVE LAYOUT
www.georgepetergatsis.com

SANDEEP ATWAL
PRODUCER
DIGITAL SCANNING
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

DAVE FISHER
for CEREBUS TV
PROMOTION COORDINATOR

MARGARET LISS
Proofreading

PUBLIC DOMAIN
MUSIC & SOUND EFFECTS
GarageBand, Apple Inc.

ISBN : 0-919359-07-8

Dave and Deni met December 16, 1976.
They married October 6, 1978.
Separated August 20, 1983.
Divorced August 1986.

All ads, contests, contact information
in the letters, ads and archive pages are null and void!
IT'S, LIKE, 30 YEARS AGO, EH?

visit us @
www.cerebusdownloads.com

Dave Sim is willing to do Ball Point Sketches for $100 each.
You can contact Dave at:
Box 1674, Station "C"
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 4R2, CANADA
Phone: 1-519-576-0610
Fax: 1-519-576-0955

A Note from the Publisher

Here I am again. This issue I helped out a bit with Aardvark Comment. When reading through all this months letters at one sitting, I got a very strong over-view. Most of the lengthier letters have the feeling of reading a review. Are you sure some of you guys aren't harboring secret hopes to write reviews for the Comics Journal and are just practicing on us? It certainly reads that way. I apologize if your letter isn't in this issue, but we had a good month for letters. Considering the mail strike is just starting up here, it will probably help to have a few left over in case we don't have any mail coming in before the next issue. Also, I try not to put the same people's letters in every issue, so if you write often you aren't going to get every letter in the book. But we do read every letter and I am making an effort to try and write back to everyone who does write to us. I'm sorry that Dave doesn't have the time to personally answer all your questions, but he does have a monthly schedule to keep. Drawing Cerebus takes up almost every minute of his time.

I'm getting a little nervous about going to Chicago for the convention there. I'm hoping it won't show up too badly while I'm there. I've never tried going to a major con on my own (well I did in New York, but that wasn't planned that way). Dave seems to think I'll do fine once I get there, so I guess I'll just take his word for it.

A personal note to Tom Kempton in Atlanta: I've lost your return address somewhere, Tom, so could you drop me a postcard some time? Thanks.

Also, for those of you who were confused with my previous comments on the newsletter, here's more .... You cannot get the newsletter except by becoming a member of the Cerebus Fan Club. If I sound like I'm blowing my own horn, it's just that Fred informed me that I had kinda confused things the last few times, so I'm hoping this will straighten everything out. If this is still confusing, I would suggest that you contact Fred Patten at the address given on the right in the black box. That's about it for now. See you all next issue!!!!

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 28 JULY, 1981

Publisher
Denise Loubert

Distributors:
Bud Plant Inc.
P.O. Box 1886
Grass Valley, CA
95945

Pacific Comics
P.O. Box 99217
San Diego, CA
92109

Glenwood Distribution
124 Vandalia St.
Collinsville, IL
62234

Capital City Distributors
2827 Perry Street
Madison, Wisconsin
53713

Styx Comic Service
Box 3791, Stn. B
Winnipeg, Man., Canada
R2W 3R6

Now & Then Books
103 Queen St. South
Kitchener, Ont.
N2G 1W1

Cerebus Fan Club
c/o Fred Patten
11863 West Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City, California
90230
Membership...$5.00 per year

If you want information on Cerebus (news, quotes, etc.) contact our Publicity Agent:

Robert W. Rittinger
24 Cait Ave. #4
Kitchener, Ontario

CEREBUS THE AARDVARK is published fifteen times a year by Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc., P.O. Box 1674 Station 'C', Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2, including three "Swords of Cerebus" in January, May and September. All contents © 1981 Dave Sim. Any inquiries regarding use of the characters, images, or situations depicted should be addressed to Denise Loubert. No unauthorized reproduction allowed except for review or other Journalistic purpose. Advertising rates furnished on request. Printed in Canada by Preney Print & Litho Inc., Windsor, Ontario.

MIND GAME II

Well, well, well. Good morrow to you.

Po.

So Cerebus is back in the Seventh Sphere.

Eighth, ***actually.***

Eighth, eh? How do you get to the Eighth Sphere?

Well, I got here by meditating for seventy-two years until I got the hang of it. I haven't got a clue as to how *you* ***managed it.***

How long is Cerebus going to keep falling like this?

That's entirely up to you.

It is?

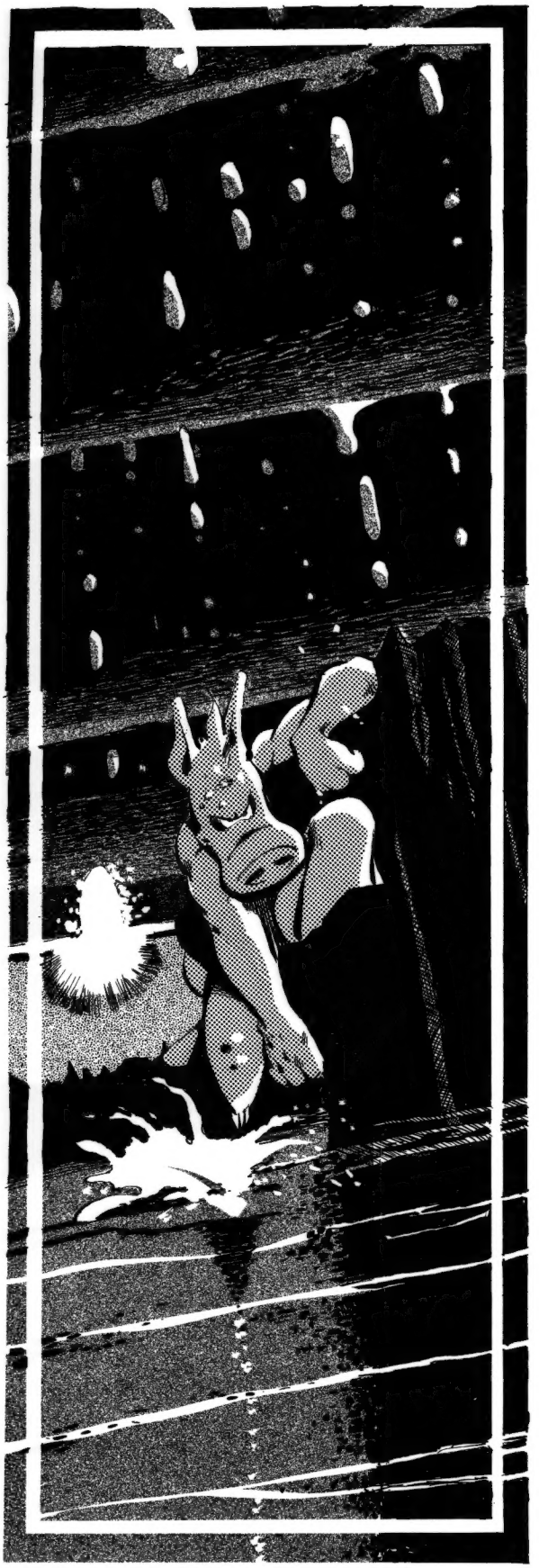
It's a matter of will power. Concentrate on slowing your breathing and pulse rate. Everything around you in the Eighth Sphere is a creation of your own mind.

Really.

Getting control of it is not really as difficult as it appears on the surface. The Adepts who have the most trouble tend to be those with only just a nodding acquaintance with their conscious mind.

Cerebus seems to be slowing down a little.

Your mind is apt to produce a number of pretty unusual environments. Just keep reminding yourself that it isn't real.



Cerebus hopes you don't mind if he lumps ***you*** *in with that theory.*

Excuse me?

If you met Cerebus in a tavern some place and Cerebus started telling you that the funniest thing has been happening lately. Cerebus has been hearing the voice of Suenteus Po in his head. Dead? Not a bit of it. He hangs around this strange grey and black place called the Seventh Spere. He's one hundred and eighty two years old, don't you know?

Ah.

Cerebus once saw an old woman who heard voices in her head. She used to sit outside the Ram and Peacock chewing on the hem of her dress and selling portraits of passersby she used to paint with her spittle.

I see.

No offense, But Cerebus figures its better all around if he keeps on thinking of this as a singularly dull dream.

Not at all. You don't mind if I continue to believe I exist?

What ***you*** *do with the voices in* ***your*** *head is* ***your*** *problem. Actually, Cerebus has a question about this .... dream.*

Yes?

Cerebus has been to this ... dreamworld on two different occasions now. Against his will.

Mm.

When you come here, Cerebus assumes that you do so on purpose.

Correct. What is your point?

Cerebus can think of a dozen vacation spots that, if nothing else, are at least better ***lit.***

Well, you have to understand, to an Illusionist, the Seventh Sphere is, first, a retreat from the modern world -- a way of removing oneself from day-to-day living.

Escapism?

Hardly. We're engaged in finding the essence of life and living. Through meditation and the ingesting of certain illicit substances, we are seeking after Truth, Reality and Essence.

How exciting for you.

The Seventh Sphere is, second of all, a means of slowing the adept's bodily functions to such a degree that he needs only the smallest amounts of food and water to survive. His need for the material world in all its forms fades as he continues to meditate.

Must make Illusionism the belief of choice for tightwads.

I've never heard it expressed quite that way, but I suppose you could say that.

Cerebus still hasn't really gotten an answer to his question; what's so special about lots of black with strange grey scenery.

It would be easier to describe if you had some background in the sorcerous arts -- alchemy, levitation ....

Cerebus has studied.

Hmm. We're full of surprises, aren't we? With whom did you study?

Magus Doran.

Ah. For how long?

Three years.

How did you fare?

Cerebus ran the gauntlet of energy globes in Imesh. Twice.

Do you remember first and second meditation?

Aye.

Well, you can look on the Eighth Sphere as an intensive second meditation. The "strange, grey scenery" as you call it is a manifestation of your mental .... clutter? The first step toward eliminating this clutter is to ....

.... focus on the black.

Good. Good. How long have you been away from your studies?

Ten years. Maybe more.

You'll need my help, then. I think you'll understand this sphere a little better with a practical demonstration of its nature.

Okay.

The Seventh Sphere is where one seeks his own equilibrium. Once attained, the world is seen as a cross-roads of an infinite number of paths. The Eighth Sphere is a specific path revealed at a more complex level.

Complex structurally or manifest?

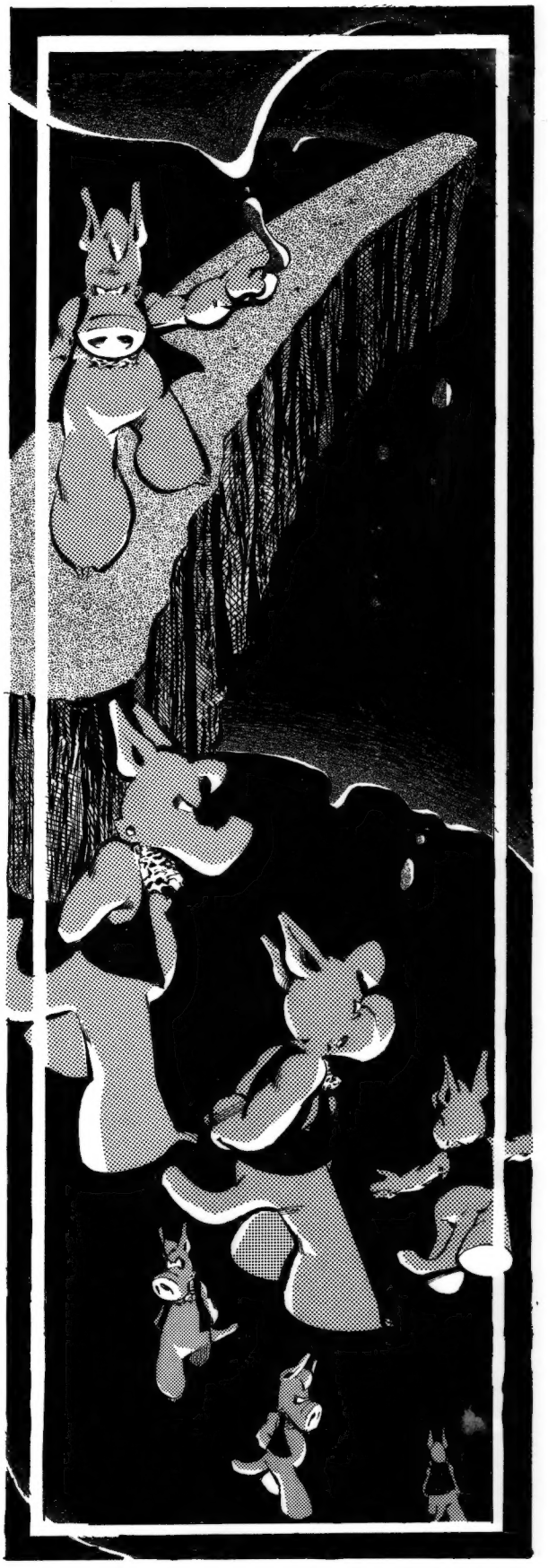
That depends on the inividual. How are you doing with your clutter?

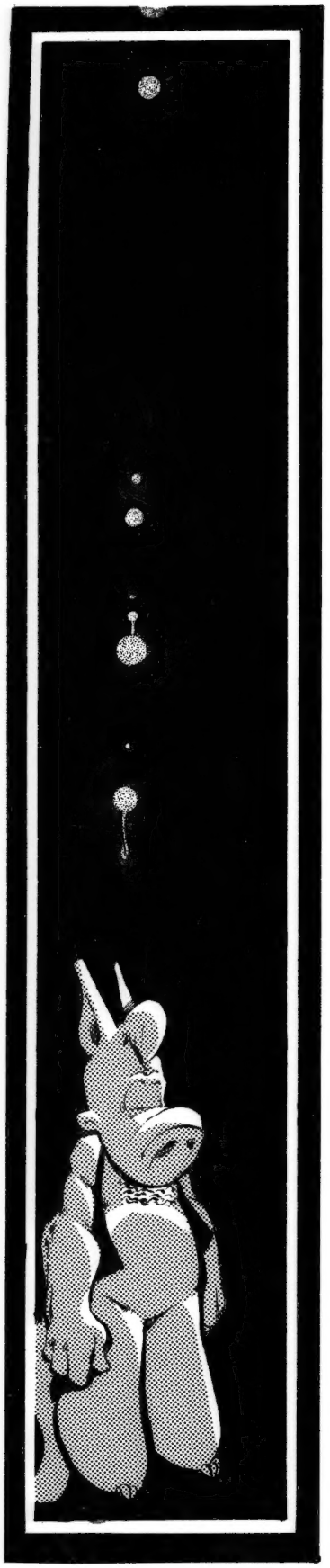
There isn't much grey scenery anymore. Cerebus is a little rusty at this, though.

Do you feel any motion?

It is like Cerebus is half-walking and half-sliding. Like trying to climb down an embankment of mud.

Let yourself sink, as if you're in a deep well. Your mind will seek its own level.





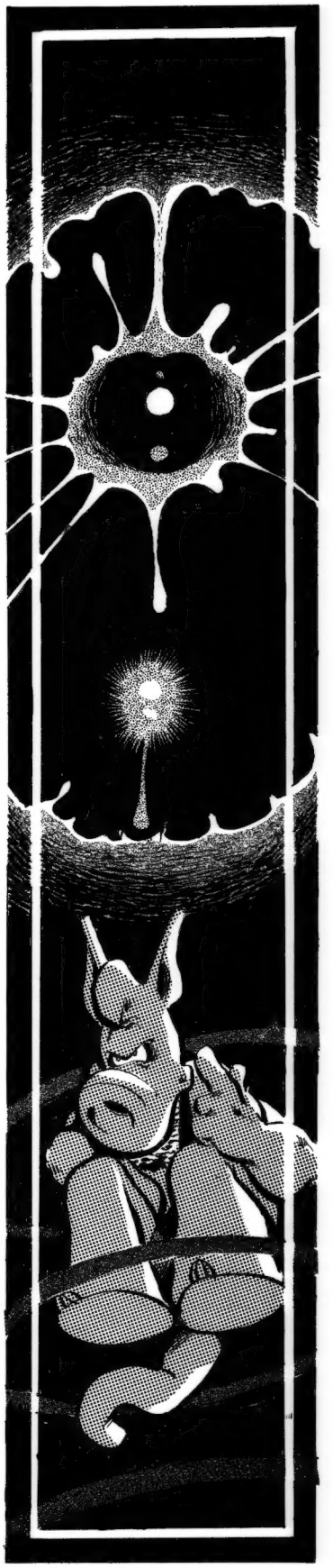
Very good. Very good. Relax your muscles.

Breathe in.

Breathe out.

Let the weight of your arms pull you down and the buoyancy of your spirit pull you up.

The Eighth Sphere will lead you to the answers you seek if you just ....



What Cerebus would like to know is how he got from Togith to Beduin the last time he visited this little resort.

****sigh* Can't you just meditate about it?***

Cerebus would rather ask you.

One minute you were talking to me in the Seventh Sphere and the next -- PFFFT -- You were gone. What else can I tell you?

Well, Cerebus was gone for almost a fortnight. He was drugged in Togith shortly before Concordance Eve and he woke up in Beduin several weeks later.

The Cirinists probably ....

The Cirinists ***had*** *Cerebus. Why would they make a fuss about building him a temple and then dump him in Lower Felda?*

You're asking *me* ***to explain the Cirinists?***

Who knows why the Cirinists do** anything?* **They're fanatics for Set's sake!

But that still doesn't....

Or it could have been the Kevillists possibly.

The Kevillists.

A rebellious faction that's only recently come to light in Upper Felda -- in Cirin's own government.

Aye?

A fanatic's fanatics. They believe in the death penalty for wearing clothing that isn't grey or brown.

Why would they be interested in Cerebus?

To keep the Cirinists from getting you .... to discredit Wenda .... Hell, maybe they just like grey fur, I don't know. Can't handle second meditation, mm?

Cerebus has a few things he wants to talk about.

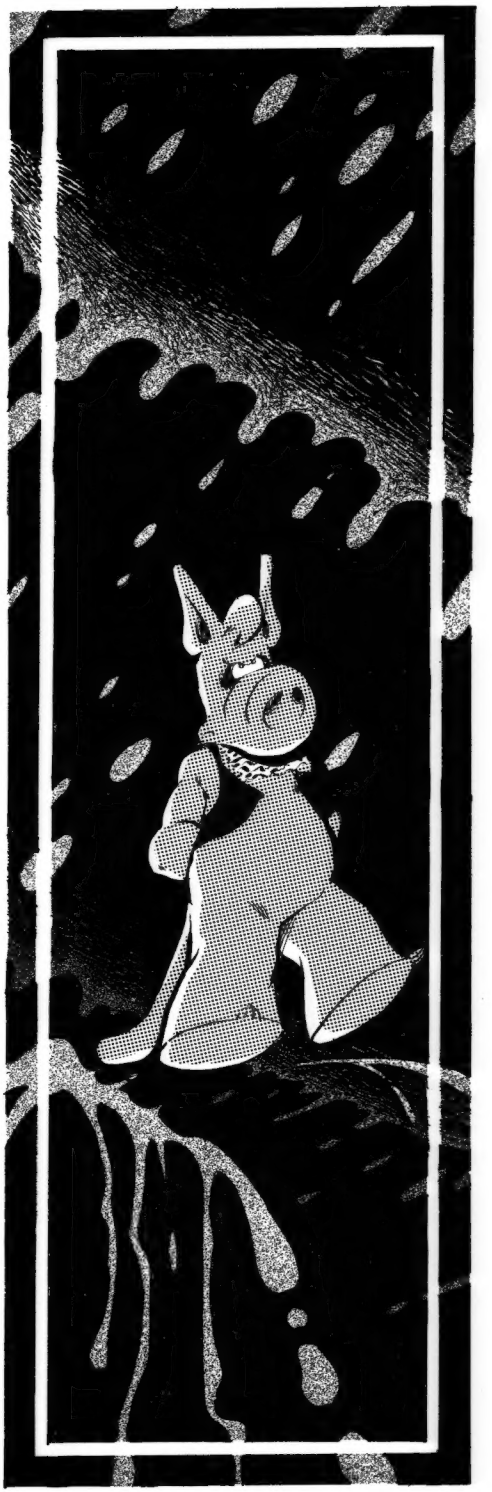
How's your mental clutter, by the way.

Cerebus can live with it.

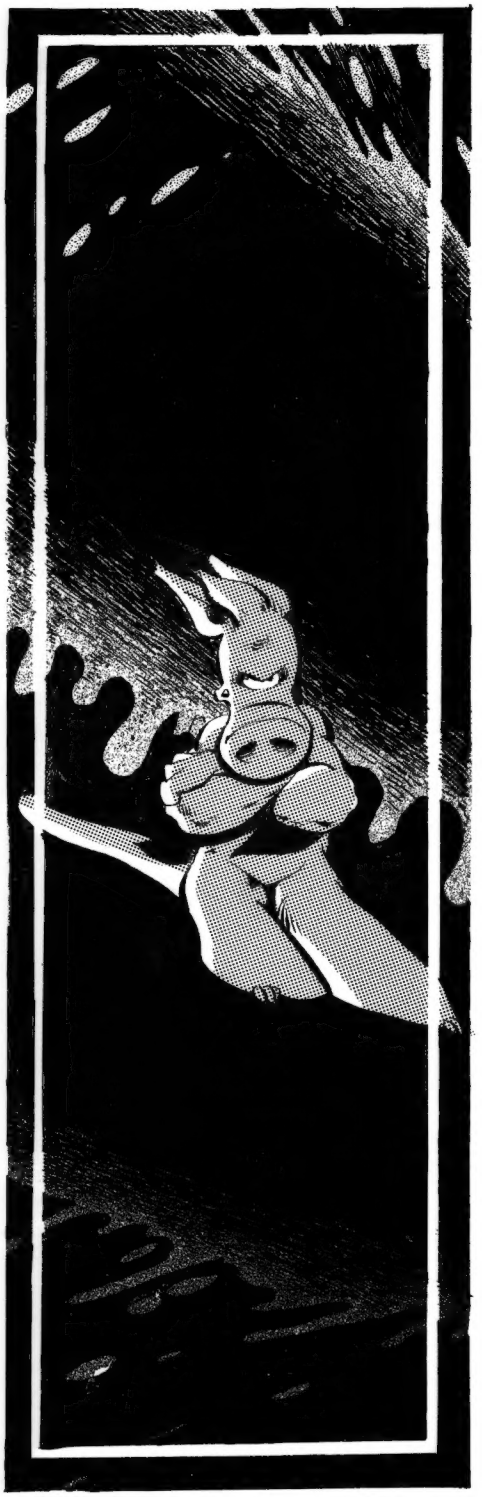
I was afraid you were going to say that.

Cirinists, Kevillists, Illusionists. Without putting too fine a point on it, Cerebus can't figure out why you keep on trying to buck the system. Whatever small victories you might have from time to time, it's the Orthodox Tarimites who run the show, isn't it?.

That's not as true as it was in the past. The Church of Tarim feels it has solid grass-roots support and a general sense of unity prevails in Iest and Serrea to all outward appearances. The rift between the two Churches is quite permanent, however, by this point. Either pontiff could quite contentedly watch his conterpart sink screaming into the midst of a domestic revolution or foreign invasion. Would delight in fact, to an almost impious degree, in not lifting a papal finger.



Cirin has supported rebellions in Dehrsion, Eshnosopur and Enothas. She's supplying arms and equipment to the Borealan rebels in the Blood Wars and she has solid treaties with the neighbouring Feldwar States. Effectively surrounded on all sides by Cirinists and Cirinist allies, The Sepran Church will be facing a rapid demise over the next few decades. The Church and the Empire haven't enough legions between them to fight on all their borders simultaneously.



A war in the offing, then?

Hardly necessary. A prolonged war would drive down the value of the Sepran crown and Cirin would have a depressed economy to handle when she finally crushed the Empire. Her goal is containment of the Seprans on their present holdings while her Priestesses infiltrate the civilian population, re-instating the old Corn-King rituals. There's already a two-to-one ratio of Cirinist Priestesses to Tarimite Priests within the Sepran Empire's border territory.

What about your own little group?

The illusionists? We're not really a major force of any kind. More of a discipline, as I told you, for exchanging information.

Sort of a psychic social club.

I'm not sure I like your tone.

You don't have to sound so offended. Cerebus just finds it a little hard to believe that you carry around all these complex analyses of Estarcion politics just so you can chit-chat about it with your friends.

Naturally, we are interested in the ongoing state of our environment. But it is against our teachings to assume too extroverted a role. in our view, each individual needs to cast himself adrift from his surroundings. Or, to put it another way, interference in the process of self-illumination tends to pollute the essence of the process.

You haven't got the tiniest foothold anywhere --? There are no illusionists in the great councils of the governed world?

Followers of our disciplines have a great range of occupations. We don't find earning a living to be mutually exclusive of following Illusionist theory.

And if an Illusionist happened to be -- say -- secretary of the treasury for a large country -- if he decided, with no influence from you, to siphon off a few copper bits for the Illusionist coffers -- that would be ***his*** *business, no?*

There's no evidence that that has ever happened.

There's no "evidence" that Lord Julius is robbing his people blind, either, but I don't think either of us would be willing to give him the benefit of the doubt.

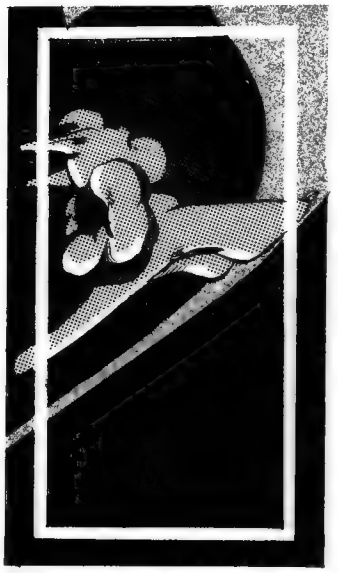
You have a keen mind, my friend.

Skip the flattery, Cerebus would rather have a straight answer.

What was the question? I must have missed it.

Cerebus wants to know if you really expect him to believe that Illusionists don't have influence with a number of Estarcion political leaders.

Oh. That question.



All right, let's suppose that the Illusionists are not what I say they are.

Mm.

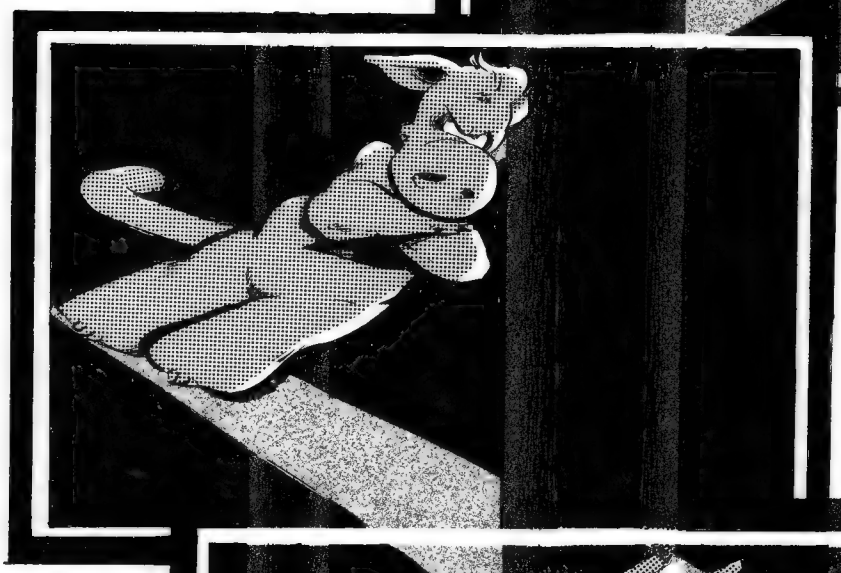
What reason would I have for lying to you?

Cerebus wouldn't know, but that wouldn't alter the fact that you ***were*** *lying.*

Let me put it differently; what makes you *suspect* ***I'm lying.***

Your view of the Cirinists for one.

View? What view? You can ask anyone with more than a passing interest in them -- they're dangerous.



The last time we talked, you were surprised when Cerebus told you the Cirinists had plans -- and even more surprised when he told you they were dangerous. Your exact words were "I thought their only goal was to wipe out fun in our lifetime."

Well, uh, see ....

Skip it. Cerebus doesn't really expect you to start telling the truth just because you were caught in one contradiction.

Well, actually ....

Cerebus ***would*** *like to know why you're pumping him for information, though.*

What? Pumping you for ....

You don't have to fall back on Gosh-wow surprise every time Cerebus asks you a pointed question.

All I'm doing is ....

.... playing stupid. But that's quite all right. Cerebus would just like to know how he got to be so important.

You were the Kitchen Staff Supervisor in Palnu. Is that what you mean by important?

That was just a job.

"Just a job"? That's like calling the Wyndmel Diamond "just a rock".

What is that supposed to mean?

You show up in Palnu, you get placed in the top cabinet position in the wealthiest city in Estarcion, you're given the run of the place, daily conferences with Lord Julius .... behind closed doors and off-the-record, I might add .... finally ending up in Iest as Ranking Diplomatic Representative of Palnu and you call that just a job?

Then what?

Then what, what?

What happened after Cerebus arrived in Iest?

Well, I'm sure I don't know.

That's funny, you seem to know every move Cerebus made before that.

Well, I only hear things after they're old news.

Mm.

You must have arrived in the last while.

Mm.

So, how's it going?

Fine.

I mean, Iest. It's a beautiful city, isn't it?

Walls, streets, buildings. It's definitely a city.

Find a nice place to stay?

A bed and a roof. You can't do better than that.

So.

So.

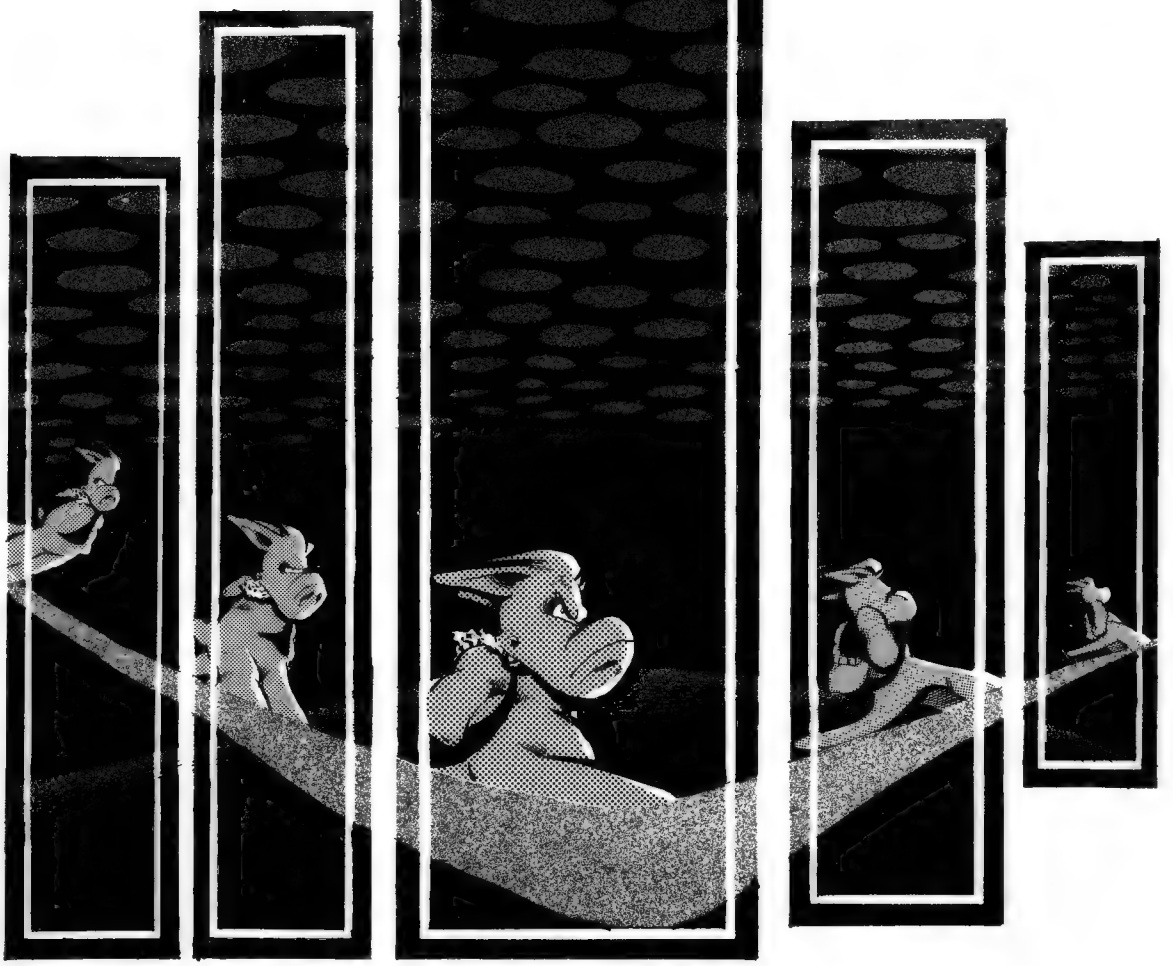
Is there some reason you don't want to talk about Iest?

Is there some reason you ***do?***

I'M JUST TRYING TO BE FRIENDLY, FOR SET'S SAKE!! HOW'S IT GOING?!!

Fine.

GOOD!! GREAT!!



*Come to that, what are **you** doing in lest?*

Me? I don't remember saying that I ....

Having a good time?

Look, who said I was in ....?

No one. But you are, aren't you?

SO WHAT! IS THERE A LAW AGAINST IT?

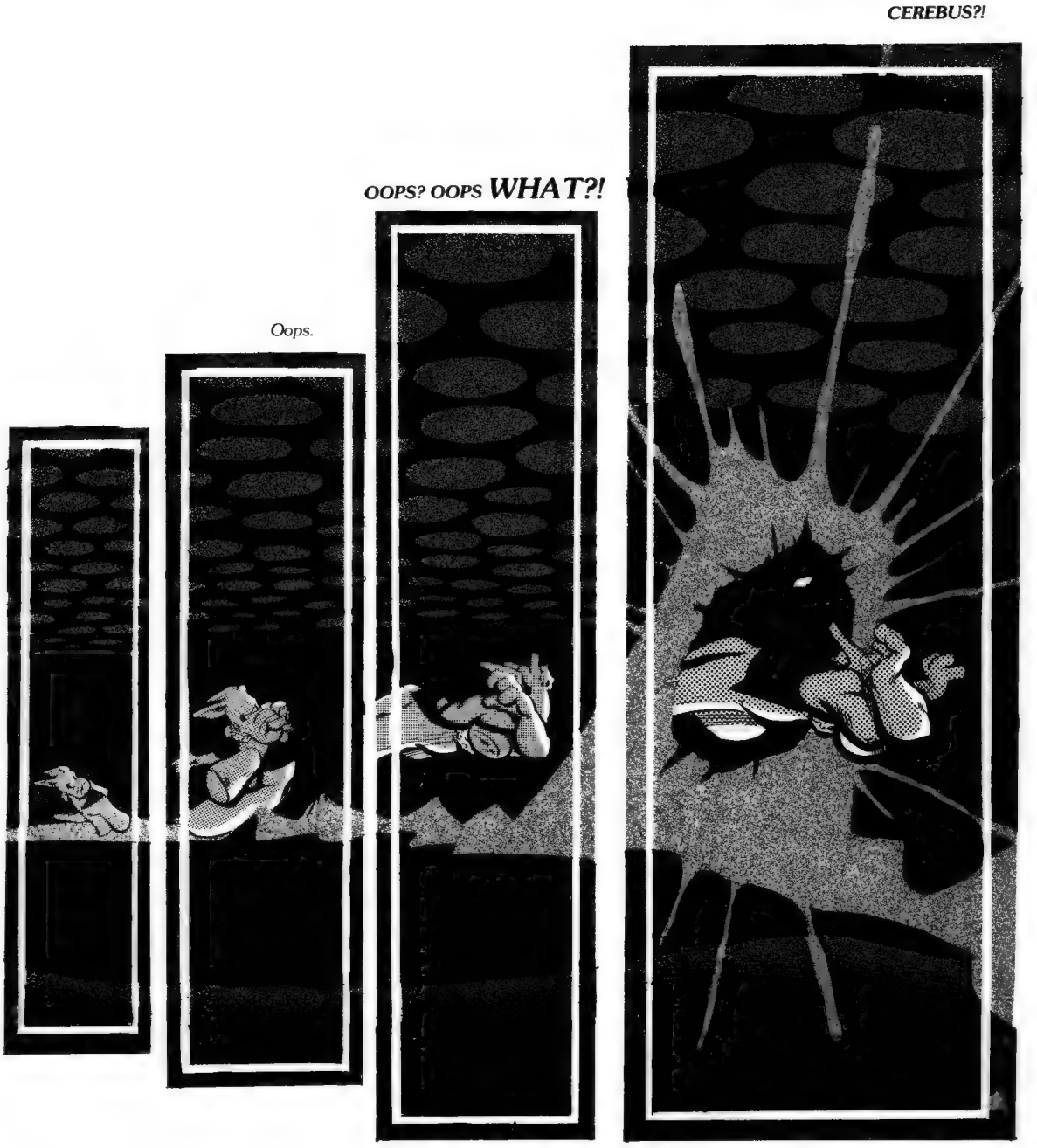
No. Having a good time?

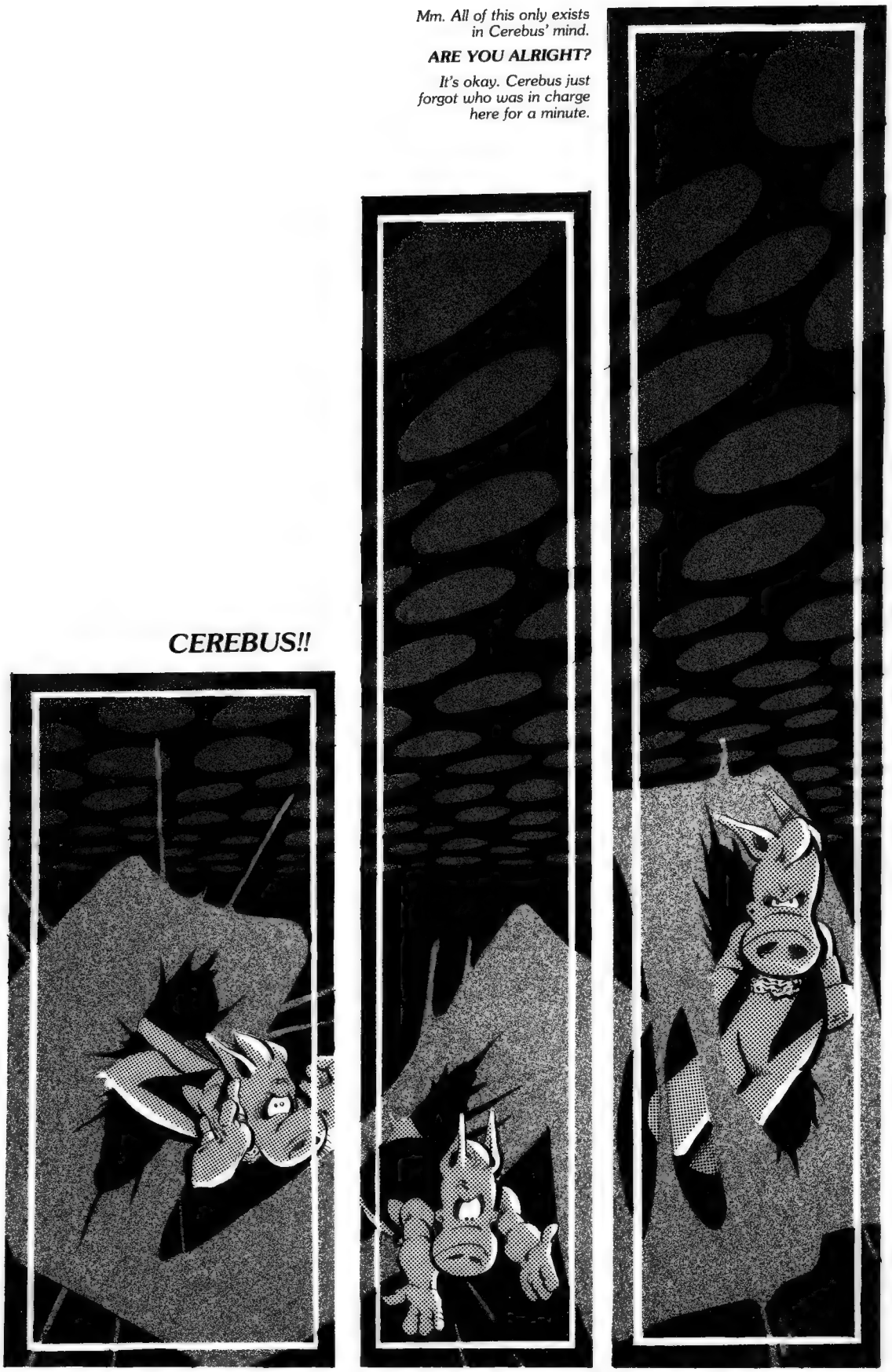
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT!!!

Find a nice place to stay?

WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING? WHAT?

WHAT?




Mm. All of this only exists in Cerebus' mind.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
It's okay. Cerebus just forgot who was in charge here for a minute.
CEREBUS!!

I STILL WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE IMPLYING! WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY "FIND A NICE PLACE TO STAY?"?!

The Regency Hotel.

I'VE-NEVER-SET-FOOT-IN-THE-REGENCY-HOTEL-IN-MY-ENTIRE ....

No. No. The Regency is where Cerebus is staying. You asked Cerebus where he was staying in Iest, remember?

AHA!

Aha, what?

AHA, NOTHING! IT'S A NICE PLACE, ISN'T IT?

How would you know?

I'VE HEARD .... ahem .... I've heard about it from many people. They all say it's a nice place.

Then there's the Pigts.

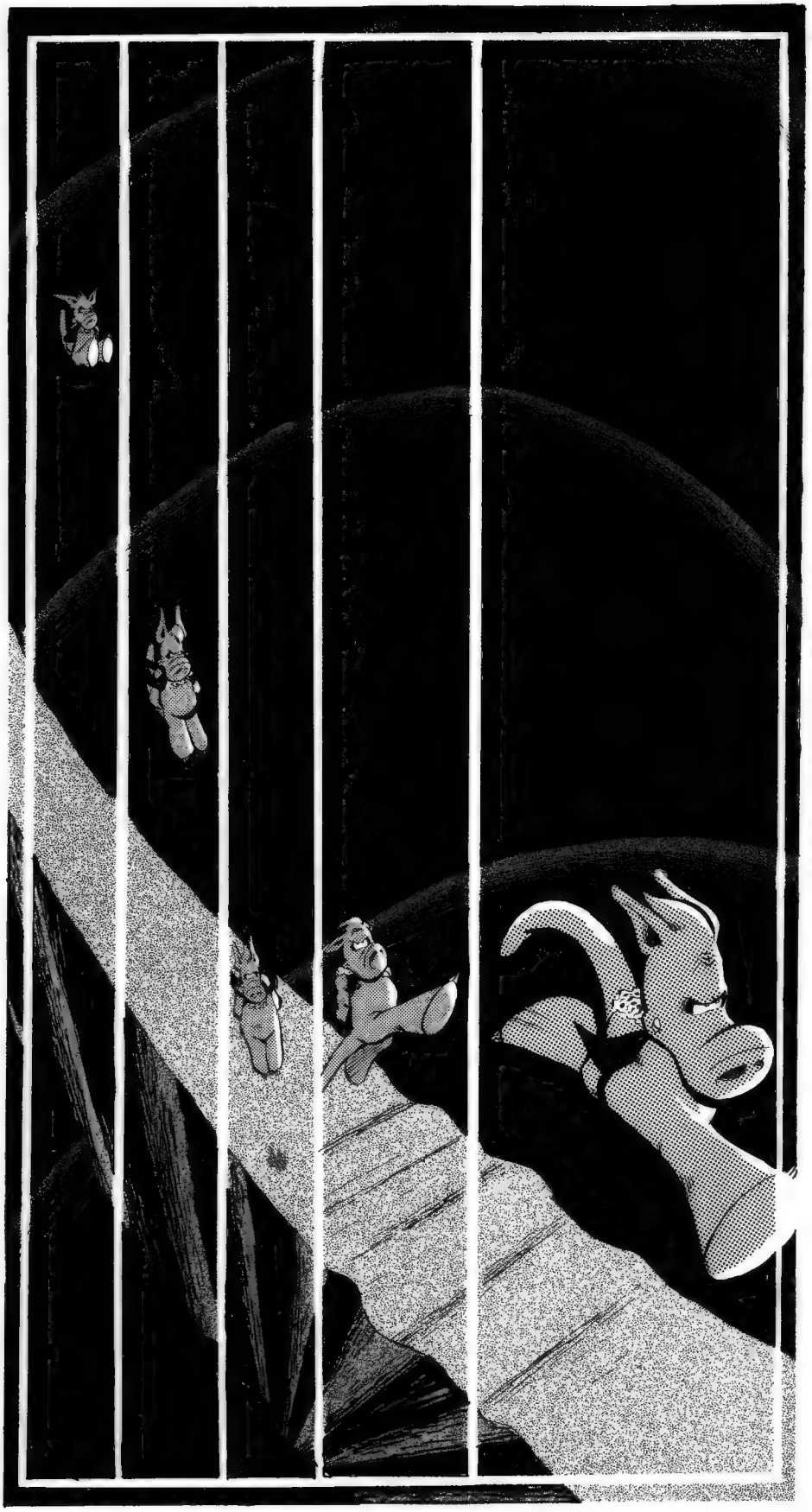
The Pigts? What about the Pigts? There are Pigts at the Regency?

You were asking Cerebus why he thought he was important. The Pigts had a statue that looked like Cerebus.

Statues? Who cares about statues. The Pigts are dying out. They used to be the best around at one time. At one time.

Cerebus heard. The Redeemer Dynasty. The Eastern Monoliths. The Black Tower Empire. Impressive.

That isn't the half of it. There was a time when every inch of the Red Marches was criss-crossed by the best roads in Estarcion. Cities that would rival Iest.



The Pigtish armies drove the Sepran Legions back across the Sofim River on dozens of occasions and I never saw one once wearing armour.

They're pretty well set, aren't they?

Oh, no. This was a long time ago. It was the Pigts who caused the Mystic Cataclysm that brought the Black Tower empire to an end and wiped out most of the known magic in the world. It was almost a century before a plant would grow in the Red Marches. To this day, the only Pigts still living on the Marches are bands of nomads, gradually losing their lands to the Conniptin Tribes.

Cerebus saw some of their underground city.

You mean the burrows? Yes. Yes. Damn Pigts burrow like gophers. Did you fall down one of their holes or something?

Mm? Oh aye. Barely enough room to stand.

And they had a statue that looked like you?

Aye, it was about a foot high. Cerebus gave one of the Pigts a copper piece and took it.

Well. It's a bit curious in its own way, but I don't know that I would say it was a sign of your importance.

Perhaps you're right.
Perhaps Cerebus isn't as important as he thinks he is.

The thought had crossed my mind.

Cerebus has a lot of trouble trying to figure out ***what*** *to believe, sometimes.*

What *do* ***you believe?***

Cerebus believes it is easier to see during the day than it is at night.

And not much else besides?

And not much else besides.

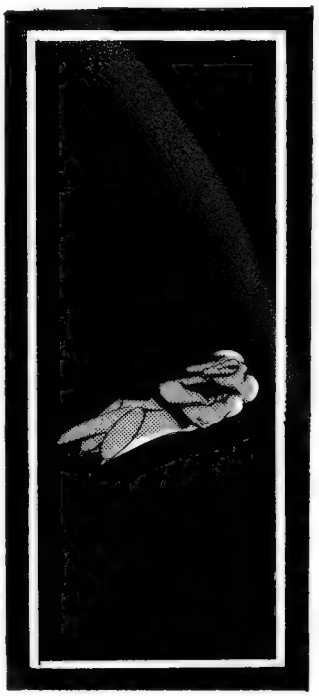
There are other things to believe in, you know.

That's what Cerebus has been thinking about. Maybe it's time to throw in his lot with some group.

Maybe it's a good time for Cerebus to find a course and stick to it. Maybe it's time for Cerebus to take stock of himself, set a few long-range and short-range goals. Cerebus thinks about that quite a bit lately.

So why have't you done it?

Because Cerebus also thinks this is a good time to get drunk every day and look for comfortable gutters to lie in.



Cerebus doesn't have anything against ambition.

As long as it doesn't interfere with Cerebus' drinking.

Besides ....
....who would Cerebus throw his lot in with ....?
You said yourself that the Illusionists are primarily a discipline. A way of thinking.
Cerebus already **has** his own way of thinking.
So that sort of leaves the Cirinists and the orthodox Tarimites.
Doesn't it?

Forgive me, but I have great difficulty picturing you as an orthodox Tarimite. Or a Cirinist for that matter.

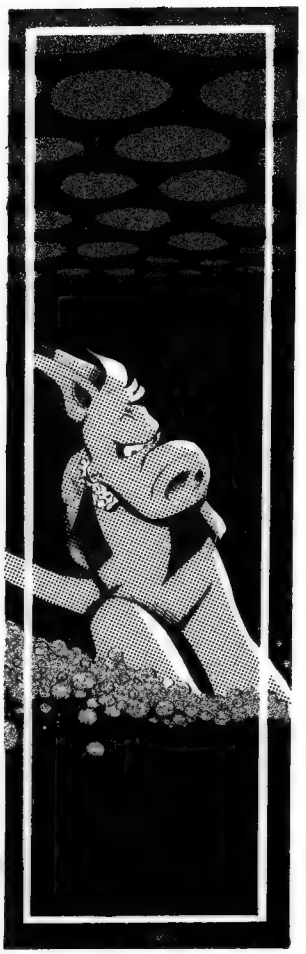
You said yourself that times are changing. Last year, Cerebus played Diamondback with Leopold, the famous Gambling Priest. Ten years ago, he would have been burned at the stake for carrying a deck of cards. How many of Tarim's priests do you suppose have a few bottles of Borealan whiskey tucked away behind their holy books?

Perce is an inner circle Cirinist Priestess and also a prostitute. Exceeding the proscribed boundaries seems to have become a continent-wide phenomenon.

Who knows what advances would be made if Cerebus was around to assist in the decision-making; advocating his own variations on doctrine and discipline. Inside of five years, getting drunk and lying in the gutter could be sanctioned by the Church as an official means of worship.

You're free to do what you want, of course, but I feel I should warn you. The flexibility you see in the Church of Tarim is a peculiarity of the Eastern Orthodoxy. So long as you never stray west of the Osiris River, you'll probably be reasonably safe.

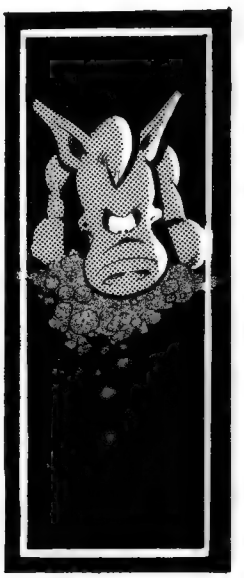
You'll probably have Sepran assassins dogging your every footstep. You won't be the first Eastern Reformer to be killed by the Western Pontiff's agents.

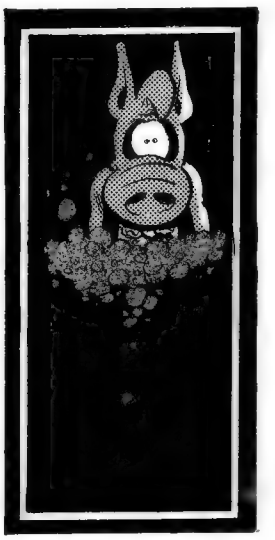


The Cirinists are definitely more flexible, but they have also become more ruthless and brutal as their power and influence has grown. Cirin has purged her inner circle three times since seizing power in Upper Felda.

In fact, I would not only say that the Cirinists are dangerous ....

Po?

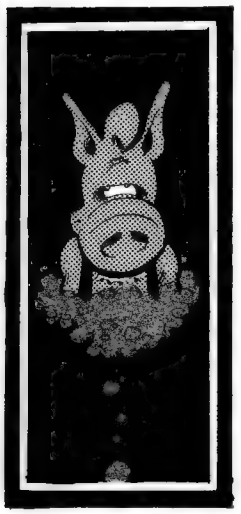


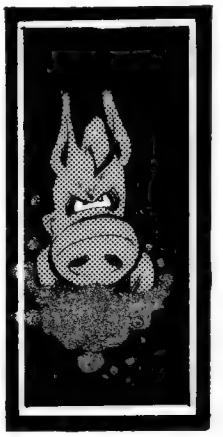


Let me finish. As a matter of fact, I would not only say that the Cirinists are dangerous; even more than that, they are unstable. I mean, of course, that instability is the more lethal of the two traits. An Onliu soldier is dangerous, but he is at least consistent. He's a blood-thirsty, half-witted, foul-smelling savage one day and a blood-thirsty, half-witted, foul-smelling savage the next.

uh .... Po?

Let me finish. The Cirinists. The Cirinists will sell anyone down the river if it will advance their cause. If you throw in with them and they decide you are no longer of use to them, they will snuff out your life like a candle flame. Do you understand?





Po, there's something Cerebus has been thinking of telling you, but he couldn't make up his mind whether he should or not.

Really? What is it?

After Cerebus arrived in Iest ....

Yes? Yes?

And after he met all of the businessmen who gave him money.

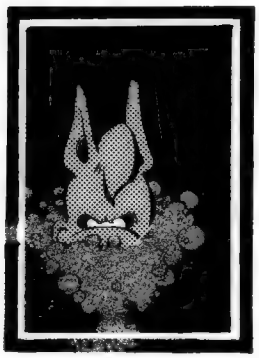
Yes .... go on.

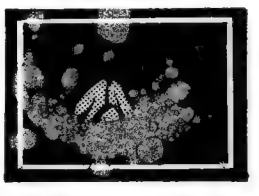
Well .... Cerebus was kidnapped.

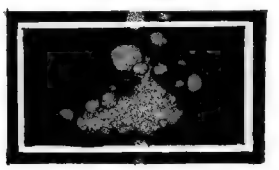
By the great Set! Who did it? It sounds like a conspiracy afoot!

Do you know who did it? Do you?

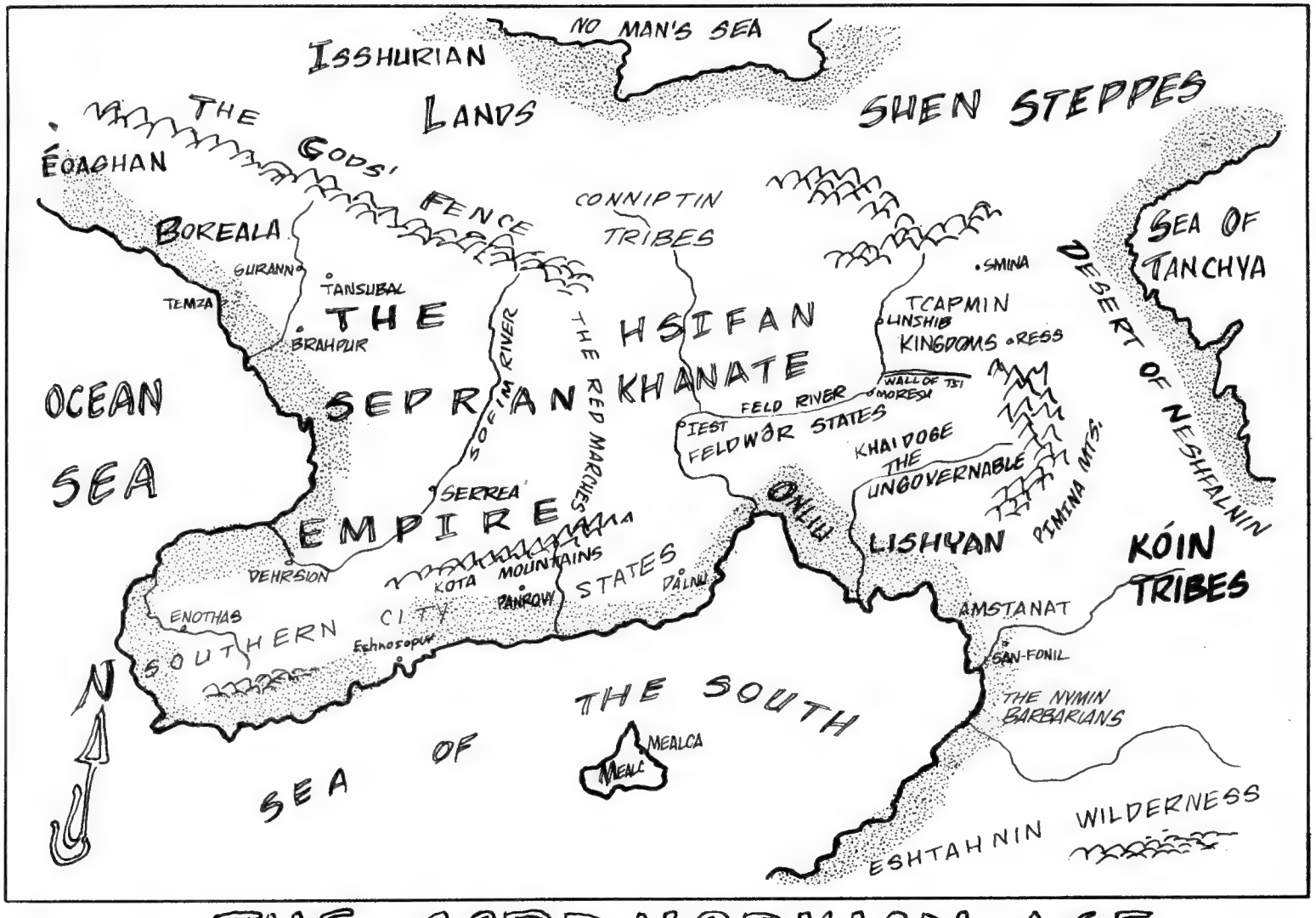
Aye. That was the reason Cerebus didn't know whether he should talk. He didn't know if he could .... trust you. Now he knows that you're on his side. Now he can tell you that he was kidnapped by ....







continued



THE AARDVARKIAN AGE

DESIGNED BY MICHAEL LOUBERT

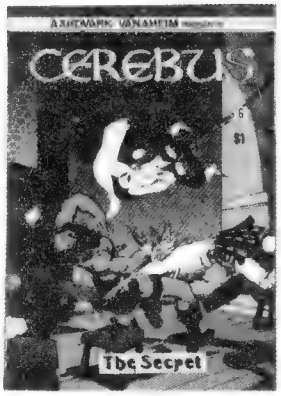
make cheques payable to:

NOW & THEN BOOKS

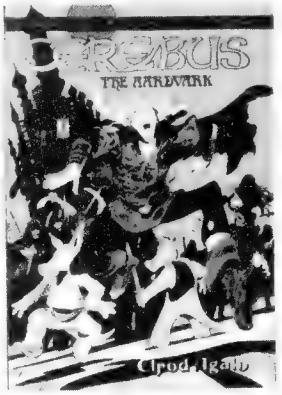
103 Queen St. S.
Kitchener, Ontario

Back Issues

No. 2 $10.00



No. 6 $3.50



No. 7 $3.00

No. 8 $3.00

9-10 $3.00 ea. 11-15 $2.00 ea. 16-24 $1.50 ea. 25¢ postage per book
Swords of Cerebus Vol. 1 $5.00 - 75¢ postage and handling
Swords of Cerebus Vol. 2 $5.00 - 75¢ postage and handling

Original Artwork

$25 per page

Pages available:

No. 1 pgs. 3, 6, 8, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21.
No. 2 pgs. 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 20, 21, 22.
No. 3 pgs. 3, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17, 18, 21.
No. 5 pgs. 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 16.
No. 8 pg. 15.
No. 9 pgs. 18, 21.
No. 10 pgs. 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21.
No. 11 pgs. 2, 17, 21, 22.
No. 12 pg. 22.
No. 13 pgs. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 21.
No. 14 pgs. 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, 19, 20.

$30 per page

No. 15 pgs. 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 18, 20.
No. 16 pgs. 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 18, 19, 20.
No. 17 pgs. 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 19, 20.
No. 18 pgs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16. 17, 18, 20.
No. 19 pgs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 18.
No. 20 pgs. 1, 7, 13, 17, 19, 20.
No. 21 pgs. 1, 4, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 20.
No. 22 pgs. 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16.
No. 23 pgs. 3, 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.

Demonhorn Story (Nucleus) pgs. 3, 4, 5.

Beaver's Buttons available in limited quantities for $1. plus 25¢ postage

Subscriptions

12 issues for $21.00 (includes all postage)
wrapped securely and mailed flat.
indicate which issue subscription starts with.

Poster

$2.50 each
(signed and numbered)
4 colour 1977

Beavers Strip Originals

(1976-1977)
$8.00 ea.

THE BEAVERS
WE NEVER HAVE ANY GOOD COOKIES AROUND HERE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I BOUGHT FOUR PACKS OF THEM OATMEAL GINGER SNAPS, MA.. OW..
YES - BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY PURGE DELIGHTS
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ATE ALL OF THEM IN ONE DAY!
YOU SHOULDN'T LET THINGS UPSET YOU SO MUCH REC

Other "Sim Stuff"

Octoberfest 1 (1976) Dave Sim and Gene Day ... $1.00 ea.
Star*Reach 7 $1.50 ea.
Imagine 1 & 4 $1.50 ea.

Phantacea 1 $1.25 ea.
Quack 3, 4, & 5 $1.50 ea.
Nucleus 1 $1.75 ea.
Cerebus Story: "Demonhorn"

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Raed Evad dna Ined,

I haven't written your fan letter yet, so I'm doing it now. I have been shamed into it by Deni's announcement of the hundreds and hundreds of other fan letters you've got lately. Your new covers look very nice, both inside and outside. By the way, can you please tell me if you (either of you) are left-handed. I know Cerebus isn't, but the crazy person whose name I forget who appeard in "Swords Against Imesh" was. I am myself, so I would like to know. Also, while I am scribbling this all down in the hopes you can understand my writing, I must tell you how much I liked the artsy person in "This woman, this Thing". He must have some of the best facial expressions you've ever drawn. May I ask if you've ever satirized any Canadians? I can't remember any, though I might be wrong. This would perhaps tie in with the theory that Cerebus is representative of our fair country, as advanced on the inside cover of issue No. 25 or 26 (I can't remember, but it was one) in your edititorial.

So now that I've got Dave convinced that he's a cross between God and Pierre Trudeau, I have a request. On looking over Michael Loubert's map in an old issue (is he the one that calls himself Clovis, by the way?), I noticed there is a small island in the Sea of the South called Mealc. If it is possible, could you sometime tell a story about Cerebus's adventures in Mealc? It strikes me that the people there would be a sea-going race, and as you can see from the return address, I am from an area that gets off on stories like that.

Your maritime friend,

Thomas Lorimer
RR2 Musq. Hbr.
Halifax County, Nova Scotia

I can't say for certain when Cerebus will reach Mealc. To date, it has only been mentioned once; in No. 27 by Dirty Fleagle. Watch for Cerebus' adventure on one of the many lost islands in the Sea of the South in Swords of Cerebus, Volume Four.

Dear Dave & Deni,

About this, ... uh, aardvark. You know, the little guy with the one piece grey tux?! What was his name? .... Cerebus? .... yeah! that's it! I'd just like to say one thing ... WOW! GREAT!! SENSATIONAL!!!

Cerebus has got to be one of the best-put-together publications since Elfquest. The stories are wittingly original and very, very funny. Along with the great artwork, they make a spectacular team.

I picked up my first Cerebus (No. 13 & 14) three days ago. I now own issues number eight and eleven to present. I will also be sending for back issues as soon as my funds stabalize again.

In the mere moments it took me to read those first few issues, I have transformed into an avid aardvark. There will always be room in my heart for a little grey furry pig ... earth born! As much room, as a matter of fact, as there is for the Wolfriders (just a little friendly competition), of WARP Graphics born. Elfquest will always be no. 1 with me but look at it this way .... Cerebus will always be no. 2 and you guys (meaning Elfquest and Cerebus) beat out what I call production-line comics (Marvel and DC). That's doing pretty good considering "you" only have one title to choose from and "they" have a whole list! I'll be writing again.

Sincerely,

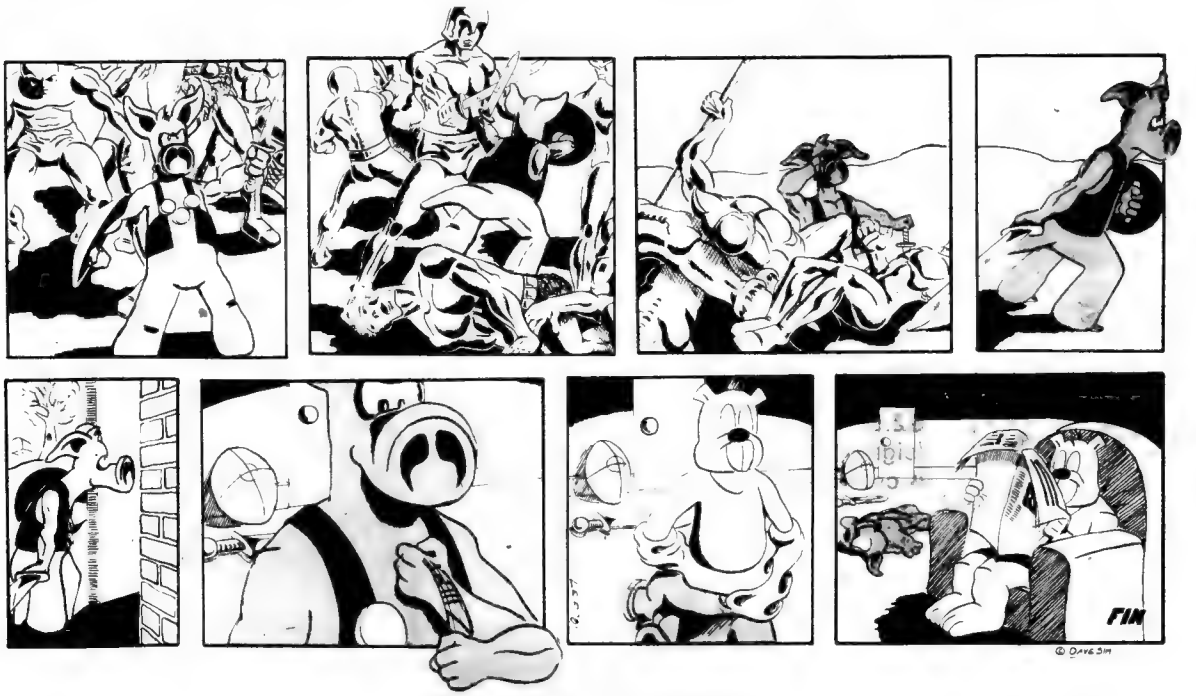
Ed Herman
6317 San Pablo Dr #228
Citrus Hts., CA 95610

P.S. Cerebus No. 20 was the best. Do another one like it in about a half a dozen issues or so.

I hope some conscientious Cerebus fan will now write and tell Wendy that they think Cerebus is number one, but Elfquest will always be number two (just kidding, Wendy). (ha ha ha?).

Dear Dave, Deni and Cerebus,

Thank you, thank you, thank you! What you've accomplished is nothing short of miraculous, let me tell you. It all began when I picked up a copy of **Cerebus** No. 22, the first comic I've bought since I sold my collection to my younger brother Io, these many years gone by. Something in this small furry creature struck a strange chord in my psyche. I had to know more about Cerebus!



AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

So far I'm only five issues shy of a complete set and have purchased two (count 'em, two!) copies of **Swords of Cerebus.**

I'm thanking you for finally giving me a comic I could respect, one with that almost-unheard-of combination of quality art and brilliant writing (even if your capital "P's" **do** always look like "D's") which this unfortunate world usually only sees between the covers of Eisner's **Spirit** books. But even more, I'm thanking you for giving me some insight into my own gradual metamorphosis. Shortly after reaching the age of twenty I began to shrink, growing slowly but noticeably shorter. I've also noticed that my thought processes, while not actually impaired, have been growing more, well, **basic,** lacking my former philosophical subtlety. I find myself fascinated by gold, wine and good food. I've ALWAYS had a foul temper. I seem to be growing stronger. I've started to sprout a light grey fuzz all over my body, and my normally upturned nose seems to be getting longer and thicker.

As I'm currently 23, I figure it won't be too long before the tail begins to grow and my ears get long and pointed.

And so this, Dave and Deni, could be the explanation for where Cerebus came from. Every now and then some genetically superior, apparently human, being gradually metamorphases into a small fighting aardvark. If my guess is right, the change should be finished in about three years. You'd better watch the aardvark jokes **then!**

Keep up the good work,

J. Clifton Swinford
(A.K.A. Ingrim the Half-vark)
950 Lake Front Road
Lake Oswego, Oregon

P.S. to Cerebus: You'd better just stay in your own aardvarkian age, because all the gold in **this** one is MINE! — Ingrim —

The evidence continues to mount that reading comic books can induce long range mental problems the scope of which we are only now beginning to recognize.

Dave,

I want this on your conscience: you are driving an avid fan of yours, ME to be specific, absolutely crazy. Before you throw this letter in the trash, let me explain. I love **Cerebus**. It's a better comic book than any I've ever read. But it's been driving me up a wall these past few months. It all goes back to issue No. 20. Yup, the weird one. In the last couple of issues (No. 21-24), you've got a number of letters in Aardvark Comment on that issue, some of them from other professionals in your field, all of them full of praise. In the smashing review of **Cerebus** in the latest **Epic** (every word of praise was richly deserved, I might add), Jo Duffy mentioned the issue as "noteworthy". Everybody is talking about your innovative use of simple black-and-grey backgrounds, your skilful manoeuvering of the aardvark's pose and expression, etc., etc., etc. Either nobody sees the issue the way I do, or they all do and aren't mentioning it as part of a mass conspiracy to send me to the funny farm. I was reading along when I noticed that Perce, who in issue No. 19 was pretty much established as a harlot, had suddenly become a faithful, established member of a religious cult so prudish it makes the Roman Catholic Church look like a Playboy Club. A couple of things weren't making sense. Then I noticed the art: "Wait a minute, if you visualize the pages consecutively in 4 rows of 5 .... holy shit! Maybe Suentus Po **is** dead! This is all going on in Cerebus' head! ..... MINDGAME!!! Jesus, can't wait to see the next issue!"

The next issue. Cerebus is in Beduin (assuming issues No. 21-24 haven't been just a continuation of Cerebus' drug-induced dream.) WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED? Why did Perce drug Cerebus, and what happened afterwards? For about four months I've been anxiously awaiting the answers. They have not arrived. In issue No. 24 you mentioned that it might be a really time-consuming hassle to relate what went on in that interval. Please, Dave, for the sake of this man's sanity, fill in the picture. You want money? I'll rob a bank. I'll rob a comic book shop. I'll kidnap Cheryl Tiegs and send her to you in a Rolls-Royce. I'll have my left lung removed. In case you hadn't already gotten the idea, I really want to know what went on there. Save me from a straitjacket.

Jim Wilon
11027 Marcliff Rd.
Rockville, MD 20853

This issue is intended to shed a little more light on the subject of the Cirinists, the Illusionists and whatnot. Having read it, are you a little less confused? Mmmmm. I didn't think so. Keep reading.

'Lo there!

My story starts late one nite. I was awakened by the sound of Pink Floyd still playing on my stereo -- hold it! I had turned off the little ole stereo before I went to bed! Curiosity compelled me to turn on the light. It was at that time I became aware that it was playing Animals and the song was ... Pigs on the Wing. As my eyes became accustomed to the light I noticed that my Cerebus collection was on top of my Animals album jacket. What happened next I can't fully explain, but a strange creature emerged and began to fly around -- I quickly sketched what I saw, it was an earth pig on the wing!! (The sketch is in this envelope somewhere.)

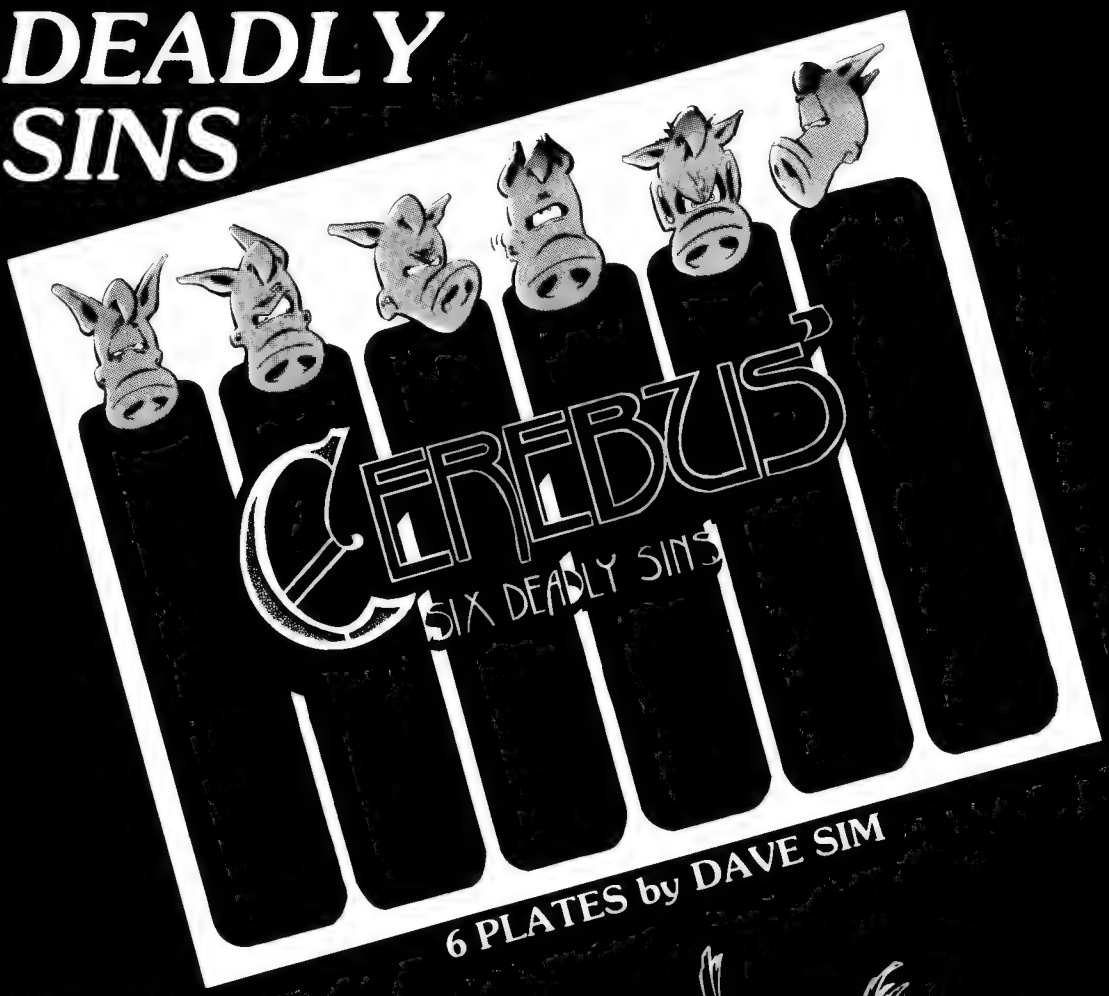
P.S.S. I was gonna say "What can you say about Cerebus that hasn't been said." But somebody said that already. So just put all the good stuff that people said together add a few "Awesomes" and that'll be my comment. (This writing is sorta squdged up because I'm in between studying for a french test -- ulg!)

Norman Felchle
64 E. Mission
San Jose, Ca.

P.S. P.S. (Whatever that is) When are you going to do a Cerebus portfolio?

Thanks to Norman for an interesting representation of Cerebus.

CEREBUS' SIX DEADLY SINS



SLOTH
ENVY
AVARICE
GREED
ANGER
PRIDE

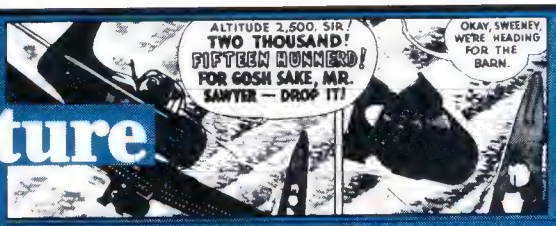
$12.00

Schanes and Schanes

NO DEALERS QUANTITIES AVAILABLE

Schanes and Schanes, 4887 Ronson Ct. Suite E., San Diego, California 92111

Classic Adventure Strips!



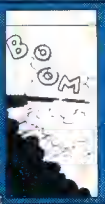
BUZ SAWYER #1 & 2
by Roy Crane

Buz literally took off on Christmas Eve, 1941—off to fight the Japanese in the Pacific. His scout bomber is shot down . . . he's marooned on an enemy island . . . meets a beautiful native girl . . . and you can read the rest. Artist Roy Crane is highly acclaimed for creating one of the all-time best-drawn and best-written adventure strips. No funky "old" strip, this ranks with Raymond's Flash Gordon as one of Fiction's Premiere Thrillers!

Each: $3.95
Save! #1 & 2 $7.50

DICK TRACY: TOMMYGUNS AND HARD TIMES
by Chester Gould

Ooh! A hefty 285 pages of stories straight from 1931 to 1933! Almost two complete years of "Plain Clothes Tracy," as he was first called. Fast-paced danger and mystery with the world's most famous detective. Plus a great color section with 16 pages of 1932 Sunday Pages. $9.95



SCORCHY SMITH — NOW at HALF PRICE!

Artist Noel Sickles was an innovator who thrilled readers of this exciting strip and inspired the next generation of artists. Considered one of the best pulp action plane strips.

#1: SOLDIER OF FORTUNE. Enlisted in a Dutch-American revolution.

#2: PARTNERS IN DANGER. Off to Algiers and Africa for wild stunts and dangerous escapades!

Originally $6.95. **NOW $3.50 each. Save! #1 & 2 $6.50**

SKYMASTERS
by Jack Kirby & Wallace Wood

Man in space! Before Jack began working at Marvel and just after Wood ended his career at EC Comics, these two great talents collaborated on a short-lived adventure strip. Here is the complete 245 episode run in an inexpensive edition. **$3.95**

RIP KIRBY #1 & 2
by Alex Raymond

The "gentleman detective" begins his adventure among the glamorous beauties of Hollywood—but ends up fighting thugs on a lonely island in the Pacific. Raymond quit Flash Gordon to devote himself to this dashing and romantic strip, yet it contains all the elegant art and fascinating women that made the stories on Mongo so popular.

Each: $3.95
Save! #1 & 2 $7.50

NOW at HALF PRICE!

TERRY AND THE PIRATES
by Milton Caniff

Interesting characters . . . snappy, contemporary dialogue . . . solid plots . . . exotic locales. Caniff brought all this and more to Terry, creating one of the best-loved adventure strips of all time. Large 96 page softcovers:
MEET BURMA • CHINA JOURNEY.
Originally $6.95. **NOW $3.95 each.**

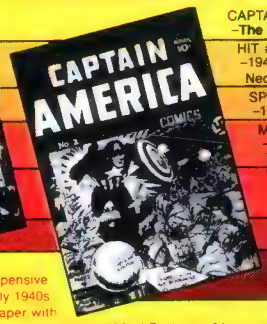
LESS than HALF PRICE!

SECRET AGENT X-9
by Alex Raymond & Dashiell Hammett

. . . One of the all-time great **lone heroes**. He fights gunfire with gunfire . . . matches racketeers' cunning with his finely trained wits . . . faces any risk to bring the underworld to justice. A very thick 176-page softcover, including X-9's first adventures—five of them—from 1934 & 1935.
Originally $8.95. **NOW $3.95**

Capt. America & Marvel Comics © Marvel Comics Group

FLASHBACK! FLASHBACK!



CAPTAIN AMERICA #2
–**The original!** Simon & Kirby, 1940

HIT #1
–1940 The Red Bee, Hercules, Neon the Unknown

SPY SMASHER #1
–1941 hero from Whiz Comics

MARVEL COMICS #4
–Human Torch & The Sub-Mariner from 1940!

AMERICA'S GREATEST #1
–Capt. Marvel, Superman, Mr. Scarlet, 100 pages

ALL AMERICAN #24
–Green Lantern, The Atom

SILVER STREAK #6
–The Original Daredevil

PEP #17
–Origin of The Hangman

Complete reprints of rare and expensive Golden Age comics from the early 1940s these are reproduced on good paper with heavy full color covers. **One of our most popular titles!** Each has 64 pages
Each: $3.50 **Save!** Pick any 5 for just $16.

Elric of Melniboné
THE VANISHING TOWER

by Michael Moorcock
Illustrations by Michael Whelan

An exciting novel of swords & sorcery in a limited, deluxe edition. An exquisite leatherette binding and matching box enclose hours of top-notch reading. Whelan's color & b&w illustrations perfectly complement Moorcock's most famous character.
Limited to 2200 copies. **$25**

The BATMAN portfolio
by Marshall Rogers

Dark and sinister, The Batman reigns supreme through the night as the terror of evil doers, meeting his match in the likes of Joker, Penguin, Two-Face and a host of others. Here are four full-color prints, suitable for framing, each measuring 11" x 14".

Please send me: **(We'll enclose our catalog FREE with any order.)**

Flashback:
☐ **Capt. America** ☐ **Marvel** ☐ **America's**
☐ **Hit** ☐ **All American** ☐ **Silver Streak**
☐ **Spy Smasher** ☐ **Pep**—$3.50 each
or ☐ any 6 for $15.

Terry & the Pirates:
☐ **Burma**
☐ **China**—$3.95 each

☐ **Dick Tracy**—$9.95
☐ **Skymasters**—$3.95
☐ **Batman Portfolio**—$10
☐ **The Vanishing Tower**—$25
☐ **Secret Agent X-9**—$3.95

Rip Kirby ☐1, ☐2—$3.95 each, ☐1&2 for $7.50.
Scorchy Smith ☐1, ☐2—$3.50 each, ☐1&2 for $6.50.
Buz Sawyer ☐1, ☐2—$3.95 each, ☐1&2 for $7.50.

☐ **Send catalog only.** Enclosed is $1 (includes postage), refundable with my first order.

Master Card & Visa customers:
Call in your order TOLL FREE
Phone 800-824-4532
9am–5pm Mon–Fri PST
Sorry, no CODs
Minimum order $10
Available all states except CA, HI, AK

POSTAGE	
If order is:	add
up to $9.99	$1.50
$10 to $24.99	$2.00
$25.00 & up	Free Postage

Order Total: $ _____
Postage: $ _____
Calif. residents add 6% sales tax: $ _____
Total $ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

BUD PLANT, INC. P.O. Box 1886C6, Grass Valley, California 95945

CEREBUS
ARCHIVE

"Postcard from Shel Dorf thanking me for my drawing for the San Diego Comicon Program Booklet and saying he was looking forward to meeting me. 1981 was my first time in San Diego. Can you believe the convention was ever that small that the Big Kahuna rubber-stamped his postcards?"

- Dave Sim

"Letter from John Preney with their quote for PRENEY PRINT & LITHO doing CEREBUS the monthly comic book and SWORDS OF CEREBUS. They were three brothers, Kim, Dick and John and they had inherited the business from their father. The were our exclusive printer from CEREBUS No.26 right up to the point where they went out of business in 2006. Great folks to work with."

- Dave Sim

Aardvark-Vanaheim Press
221 Queen St. South, #1401
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 1W5

Attention: Deni Sim

Dear Mr. Sim:

Thank you for your letter requesting a quote on two publications.

On your 12,500 - 32 page cominc books, saddle-stitched the price would be $2500.00. The only extras that are not included in this price are the separations for printing the covers, the price on these would vary from $210. for a single side to $310. for a two-sided 4 colour separation. These prices are for artwork on a flexible surface, it is very important that the surface be flexible otherwise the cost will go up substantially. Proofs for these separations can take two different forms: --

1. Pre press colour proof - Cromalin $95.00 = $3260.00

2. Press proofs $550.00

As you can see the price is quite different so please specify the method you would prefer.

On your 6,200 - 104 page, perfect bound books, the price will be $3561.00 This price again would be complete except for the colour work which will vary according to the items mentioned above. = $4421.60

I hope you find these prices satisfactory, if you have any further questions please feel free to write or call, thank you.

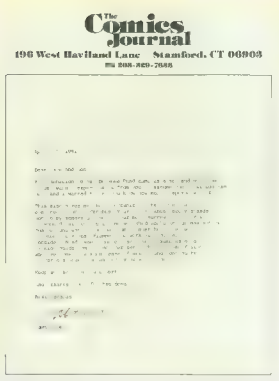
Yours truly,

J. Preney
PRENEY PRINT & LITHO INC.

JP/ms

"Letter from Gary Groth at the COMICS JOURNAL. I believe the lawsuit he's referring to was the Michael Fleisher lawsuit against the JOURNAL and Harlan Ellison. I think I'll just leave it at that."

- Dave Sim


The Comics Journal
496 West Hartland Lane Stamford, CT 06903
ph 203-329-2566

April 10, 1981

Dear Dave and Deni,

Your donation to our Defense Fund came as a joy and surprise. I just wasn't expecting it from you (I assume you're struggling, too) and I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate it.

This also gives me the opportunity to tell you that I continue to enjoy Cerebus. Your "Mind Games" story stands out in my memory as one of your most successful efforts. It should put the lie to impoverished hacks and unimaginative comics fans who claim that comics must be filled with pyrotechnic visual flummery to work as comic art. I consider "Mind Games" one of the finest examples of a talking-heads comic I've ever seen. The problem of static was overcome by a keen sense of design and continuity, clever dialogue, and an involving storyline.

Keep up the first rate work.

And, thanks again for the donation.

Best Regards,

Gary

Gary Groth

"Deni's rough draft of a reply over both our names. Like most people in the business at the time I read the JOURNAL more eagerly than I read most comic books."

- Dave Sim

Dear Gary

Just a short note. I haven't seen your latest issue around and it seems to me to be a bit late.

I'm just hoping that things are going OK with you.

Dave + I know about struggling to keep your head up. You have always been a good example to us of a journal with integrity. We can only hope that any problems stemming from the law suit will not hurt the Journal directly.

This is just to let you know we are behind you + wish you the best.

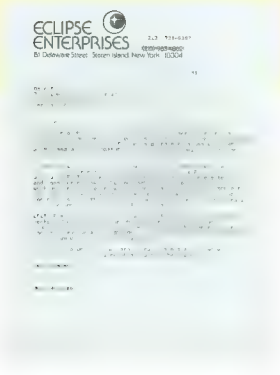
You are surviving, aren't you? Let us know if we can be of any help.

Sincerely

Dave + Deni Sim

"Letter from Dean Mullaney of the then-new Eclipse Publishing (centred on its flagship title called ECLIPSE MAGAZINE). It was a dream-come-true that I was being offered work by all of these prestigious environments and a nightmare that I couldn't find time to do anything for them! Dean Mullaney is presently a key figure at the equally prestigious IDW Publishing."

- Dave Sim


ECLIPSE ENTERPRISES

Dave Sim
221 Queen St. South, #1401
Kitchener, Ontario
Canada N2G 1W5

Hi Dave --

It's been a while -- I think since last summer's convention circuit -- since we've talked. As you can tell from the enclosed, I've had my work cut out for me; and CEREBUS, along with THE SPIRIT and Miller's DAREDEVIL, are the only comics I read and enjoy.

I realize that you've got (ahem) plenty of spare time, but here's an offer regardless: I'd like to see a 6-8 page story by you in ECLIPSE one of these days. If you're interested, and considering how tight your schedule is, perhaps we can work out an arrangement whereby you can do a story for ECLIPSE "on the side" and whenever it's complete, we'll slate it for the next issue. Think about it and let me know, either by mail or in person if you'll be at Phil's Con in July.

ECLIPSE #1, by the way, sold out its 15,000 print run in three weeks! The response, from wholsesalers, retailers and the readers has been really positive, enough so that we're upping the print run on #2 to 18M-20M. Things are looking good and all this godam work seems to be paying off.

Say hello to Deni for me, and I trust things are going well with you. Drop me a line when you get the chance.

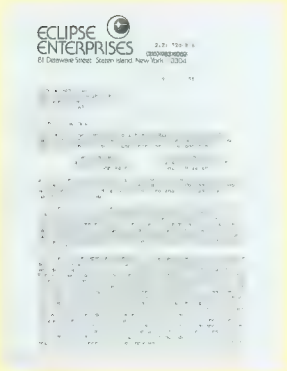
Best wishes,

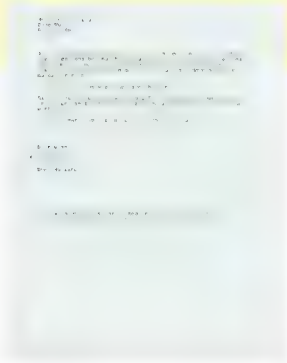
Dean Mullaney

Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

"All of the independent publishers did end up talking to each other on a regular – but very informal – basis. I don't remember any big "pow-wows". It was a strange time period. We had been exclusive with SeaGate Distributors and our circulation flat-lined even as the market was getting bigger. We decided to go back to non-exclusive, lost SeaGate right away, but ended up selling slightly more copies by selling to everyone else."

- Dave Sim





Dave & Deni Sim
221 Queen St. South, #1401
Kitchener, Ontario
Canada N2G 1W5

Hi Dave and Deni --

Thanks for the copy of the latest CEREBUS; I've forwarded the other copies to the respective parties and to save you the trouble next time around, here are some addresses:

Steve Englehart 4218 La Cresta Oakland, CA 94602	P. Craig Russell 1224 South Lincoln St. Kent, OH 44240

uh...I forgot who the other copy went to, but it has been mailed to them. But if you need any other addresses of people we've worked with, drop me a postcard and I'll dash the addresses up to you.

I haven't had the chance to read this new issue yet, but if you'd like a quote on CEREBUS for possible use some time in future advertising, here's one: "Over the past few years, Dave Sim's CEREBUS and Will Eisner's SPIRIT have remained the only two regularly produced comics to hold my attention. Sim's wit, storytelling and exquisite line work prove him to be one of the leading creators in the comics field. -- Dean Mullaney, Editor/ECLIPSE."

Now for a CONFIDENTIAL MATTER!! I've heard stories about your deal with Sea Gate. As you know, we had extreme problems with New Media a while back. I've also spoken with Tom Skulan at FantaCo about distributor problems. Tom and I agreed that we think it might be a good idea if we could get as many of the leading alternative comics publishers together for a talk. Not to conspire or form cohesive plots, but rather, so that we can all talk, exchange experiences and in general, talk about the problems the alternative publisher faces with distribution, the determination of retail price, etc., etc. As we both know, the distributors delay payments to us if they can get away with it and I know you're in the same position that we are -- our respective publications are our sole source of income, wheras the distributors make bucks from a lot of publications. As I said, Tom and I think it would be a good idea if a bunch of us could get together. Let me know what you think of the idea of

getting together some time. But let's keep this quiet. While the intentions behind this idea are good, certain people (read: distributors) may take it differently. Yet I do think it would be to all our advantage if we could sit down and talk mutual problems.

So get back to me when you have the time.

Also, what's the story with UNIQUE? I love that logo (who did it?), but the title itself leaves me a little flat. Good luck with it.

Until I hear from you, my best to both of you...

Best wishes,

Dean Mullaney

P.S. As always, I'm interested in talking to you about a Sim story appearing in ECLIPSE....

"Having the request for Cerebus to become the mascot of the New York State JayCees seemed to fit the "strange time period" motif. Any publicity was good publicity – I just hoped they weren't a "front" for the Illuminati or the CIA or something. And what were we THINKING with that "script" typewriter font?"

- Dave Sim

June 10, 1981

30½ Academy St.
Oneonta, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hegeman:

My apologies for the lateness of this reply.

This letter is to inform you that you have Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc.'s full permission to use Cerebus as a mascot for the New York State Jaycees under the provisions stated in your letter. (That the character be properly credited and copyrighted.) We would also like a sample copy of anything that the mascot appears on.

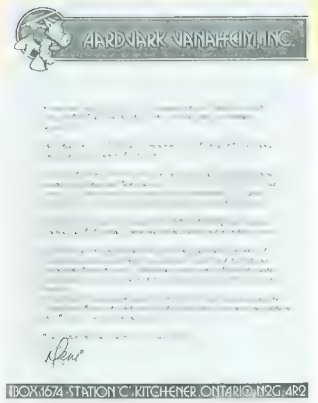
I wish you the best of success as district director, as well as success for the Jaycees.

Sincerely,

Dave Sim
Publisher
DS:kr

"Draft letter to the distributors. You can see us trying to get away from making our money exclusively through the distributors by mentioning the autographed Diamondback decks with no distributor discount. Meanwhile they had to take 500 unsigned decks to get the 60% discount. I'd suspect they were – justifiably – unhappy about that."

- Dave Sim



Enclosed are some visuals to use for advertising the Diamondback deck. This art IS NOT in finished form, it's just to give you something to work with.

The retail price is $2.95 with a minimum order of 500 at 60% discount. Your price would then be $1.18 each.

There are fifteen cards to a deck; one magician, two priestesses, three queens, four kings, and five priests. The reverse-side is a four-colour drawing of Cerebus seated at a table playing Diamondback. The cards measure 3" x 5" and come in specially designed illustrated envelope.

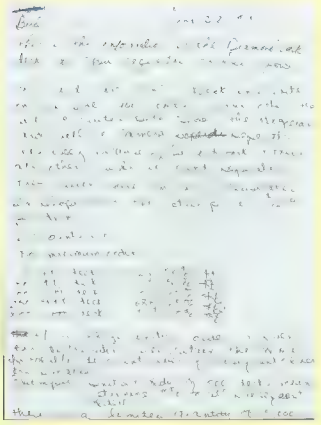
Autographed decks will be available IN LIMITED QUANTITIES from Aardvark Vanaheim for $3.95 each. There will be no dealers rates on these cards.

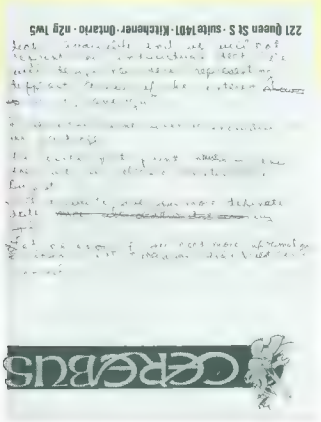
All orders will be shipped with the following shipment of an issue of Cerebus after the payment has been received. (You can just tack it onto you payment for that issue.) Additional orders can be filled at a later date if you run out, but you must have a minimum order of 500 to get the discout.
We can begin shipping with issue #31 in October. Hope this gives you a bit of time, tho I know it isn't much. Just let me know if you have any questions that I haven't covered in this letter.

I hope that this will help you in your orders.
Sincerely
Dave Sim

"This is one of the few extant examples of the "221 Queen South Suite 1401" stationery (which, now that we had PO Box 1674) Deni is using as scrap paper. Reading between the lines, yes, the distributors were – justifiably – NOT happy about the quantities and discounts available and we're having to dissemble like mad to keep everyone – not happy, it was too late for that – less UNhappy?"

- Dave Sim





~~Dear~~

Bud:

June 22/81

This is the information on the Diamond Back deck as you requested on the phone.

The cards are 3" x5", black and white on one side, four-colour on the other. The will be coated both sides. The Magician card will be camera-~~operated~~ operated (nessassery because of the artwork involved) all others will be hand-operated.

They will come in an illustrated envelope and the retail price is $2.50 per deck.

Discounts are:

No minimum order

1-49	decks —	1.25 (50% off)
50-99	decks —	1.13 (55% off)
100-249	decks —	1.00 (60% off)
250-499	decks —	88¢ (65% off)
500-1,000	decks —	75¢ (70% off)

~~the~~ If a large initial order is given, the distributor will retain the more favorable discount, even if subsequent orders are smaller.

Example: Initial order of 500 decks means retaining 70% on all subsequent orders.

There is a limited quantity of 5,000 decks available and we will not reprint this individual deck. (We will design new decks representing different areas if the interest ~~is~~ is big enough.)

Rules to the game will be included in the package.

We will go to print immediately and they will be released sometime in August.

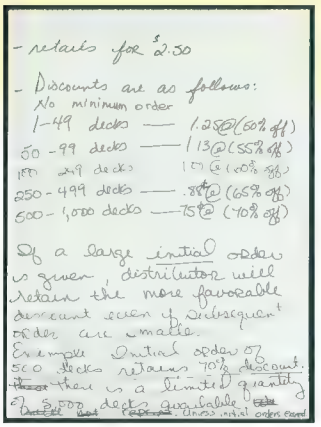
I'll be able to give you more definate dates ~~once all orders are in~~ by July.

Let me know if you need more information. Enclosed is PMT of Magician card + Priest card.

Sincerly

"Still working on phraseology while trying not to "cave" completely."

- Dave Sim



- retails for $2.50

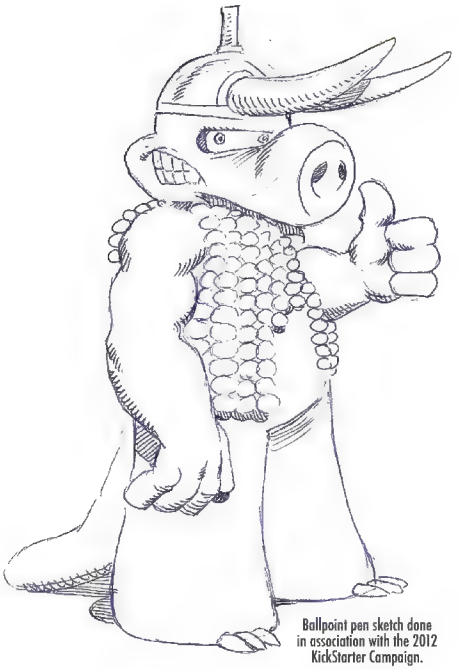
- Discounts are as follows:
No minimum order
1-49 decks — 1.25@(50% off)
50-99 decks — 1.13@(55% off)
100-249 decks — 1.00@(60% off)
250-499 decks — .88¢@(65% off)
500-1,000 decks — 75¢@(70% off)

Of a large initial order is given, distributor will retain the more favorable discount even if subsequent orders are smaller.
Example: Initial order of 500 decks retains 70% discount.
~~there~~ there is a limited quantity of ~~5,000 decks~~ ~~not~~ ~~replaced~~ 5,000 decks available ~~only~~. Unless initial orders exceed.

- retails for $2.50

- Discounts are as follows:
No minimum order
1-49 decks — 1.25@(50% off)
50-99 decks — 1.13@(55% off)
100-249 decks — 1.00@(60% off)
250-499 decks — .88¢@(65% off)
500-1,000 decks — 75¢@(70% off)

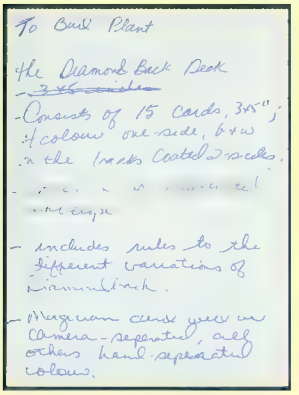
Of a large initial order is given, distributor will retain the more favorable discount even if subsequent orders are smaller.
Example: Initial order of 500 decks retains 70% discount.
~~there~~ there is a limited quantity of ~~5,000 decks~~ ~~not~~ ~~replaced~~ 5,000 decks available ~~only~~. Unless initial orders exceed.



Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

"Some different math applied to the same problem."

- Dave Sim


To Bud Plant

the Diamond Back Deck
~~- 3x5 cards~~
- Consists of 15 cards, 3x5";
4 colour one-side, b+w
on the backs. Coated 2-sides.
- Comes in an illustrated envelope
- includes rules to the different variations of Diamondback.
- Magician card will be Camera-seperated, all others hand-seperated colours.

To Bud Plant

the Diamond Back Deck
~~- 3x5 cards~~
- Consists of 15 cards, 3x5";
4 colour one-side, b+w
on the backs. Coated 2-sides.
- Comes in an illustrated envelope
- includes rules to the different variations of Diamondback.
- Magician card will be Camera-seperated, all others hand-seperated colours.

~~Bud~~ $1766.31 Diamondback ~~3.95~~ $ ~~3.95~~ autographed + numbered

Retail $2.95

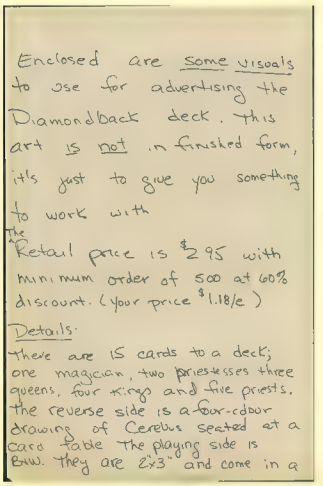
To distributors
minimum of 500
60% discount → 1.18

15 cards
4 colour one side
black + w. other side
Round Cornered
handed w/rule sheet
in printed envelope

Phone about cheques
~~Bud - 500 (590)~~ ✓
~~Kylenwood - 1,300 (1180)~~
~~Cap. City - 500~~ ✓
~~Sty x 500 (590)~~ ✓
HARRY - 2000 ✓

"Another early draft of the same letter."

- Dave Sim

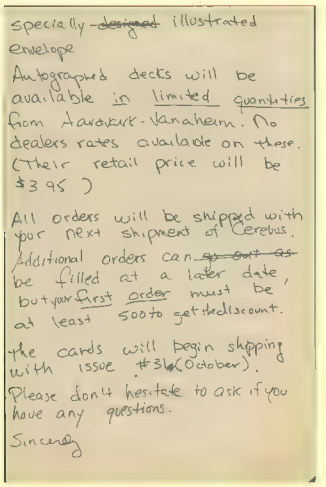


Enclosed are some visuals to use for advertising the Diamondback deck. This art is not in finished form, it's just to give you something to work with.

The Retail price is $2.95 with minimum order of 500 at 60% discount. (Your price $1.18/e)

Details:

There are 15 cards to a deck; one magician, two priestesses three queens, four kings and five priests. The reverse side is a four-colour drawing of Cerebus seated at a card table. The playing side is B&W. They are 2"x3" and come in a



specially ~~designed~~ illustrated envelope.

Autographed decks will be available in limited quantities from Aardvark-Vanaheim. No dealers-rates available on these. (Their retail price will be $3.95.)

All orders will be shipped with your next shipment of Cerebus. Additional orders can ~~go out as~~ be filled at a later date, but your first order must be at least 500 to get the discount.

The cards will begin shipping with issue #31 (October).

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Enclosed are some visuals to use for advertising the Diamondback deck. This art is not in finished form, it's just to give you something to work with.

The Retail price is $2.95 with minimum order of 500 at 60% discount. (Your price $1.18/e)

Details:

There are 15 cards to a deck; one magician, two priestesses, three queens, four kings and five priests. The reverse side is a four-colour drawing of Cerebus seated at a card table. The playing side is B&W. They are 2"x3" and come in a

specially ~~designed~~ illustrated envelope.

Autographed decks will be available in limited quantities from Aardvark-Vanaheim. No dealers-rates available on these. (Their retail price will be $3.95.)

All orders will be shipped with your next shipment of Cerebus. Additional orders can ~~go out as~~ be filled at a later date, but your first order must be at least 500 to get the discount.

The cards will begin shipping with issue #31 (October).

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Sincerely

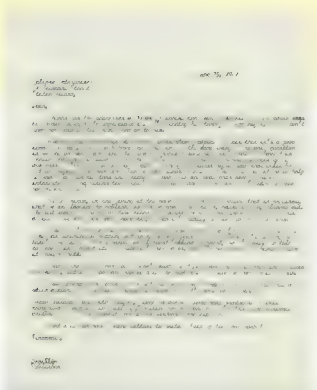
"PMT (Photomechanical Transfer) – what used to be called "a stat" of the original art of the Priestess card. Me doing my best Jeff Jones imitation. I even went to the trouble of getting tiny stats shot of the cards for use in issue 27's "Kidnapping of the Aardvark"."Isn't this COOL? The actual card game can be seen IN the comic book!" All the distributors wanted to know was how they were expected to sell a $4 card game to people already complaining about a $1.50 black and white comic book.

I finally ended up using "Elfguest" in CEREBUS No.52 after tip-toeing around Wendy and Richard Pini's trademark sensitivities (hey, some people do have them!) for a couple of years."

- Dave Sim

"Carbon of Deni's return letter to Dean Mullaney. I don't think Bud was the problem we were making him out to be. He just had very definite ideas about how much things should be priced at and always wanted to know what the justification was for charging more. We were all quasi-hippies so someone actually coming down on the side of the consumer was definitely a sore spot."

- Dave Sim



June 25, 1981

Eclipse Enterprises
81 Delaware Street
Staten Island, N.Y.

Dear,

Thanks for the addresses of Steve Englehart and Craig Russell. If you could send me Howard Cruse's I'd appreciate it. I'm sending his through Krupp right, but I don't know how quickly they send them on to him.

About getting together with other alternative people. I feel that it's a good idea. In fact, Dave and I have been thinking of the same thing. The only question is — who on earth can find the time to organize something like that? I have this feeling everyone is like you and me. We've got present and future projects up to our ears! I'll help in any way I can. Exchange of ideas might mean that we'll be better prepared for problems when we come across them. I also feel that it would help to know what distributors are tricky to work with and what ones seem genuinely interested in the alternative field. (Bud Plant comes to my mind. I'd like to know how others feel.)

As to Unique, we are giving it the name UNIQUE STORIES because that is precisely what we are looking to publish. So far we have nine issues, possibly ten, planned out. The art should be ready on time since the artists have a good amount of time to work on it. I'll send you some promo stuff when it's ready, to give you a better idea.

Also — I'm trying to get a hold of a Cerebus story that Dave did for Gene Day. Gene was planning on putting out an anthology comic — but I think he's finding he hasn't the time. It's a parody on Elfquest (dubbed Elfquest) so I'm going to talk to Wendy first about it. I think it's six pages, but I'm not sure. We haven't seen it fora while.

That's the best I can do. There's just no time around here for anything besides A-V stuff, lately. Too many projects is the problem. I think you know what I mean.

Oh— congrats on Eclipse. We got your copy and I read it with a great deal of satisfaction. I'm looking forward to Issue #2. Let's see. How's this?

"Dean Mullaney has, with Eclipse, given us one of those rare products. A well thought-out magazine in which both writing and artwork are of a truly professional calibre." — Deni Loubert, publisher Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc.

That's it for now. Mucho letters to write. Keep up the good work!!!

Sincerely,

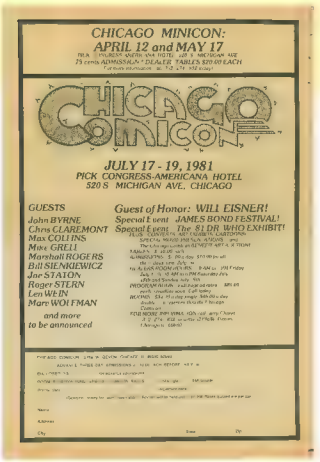
Deni Sim
Publisher

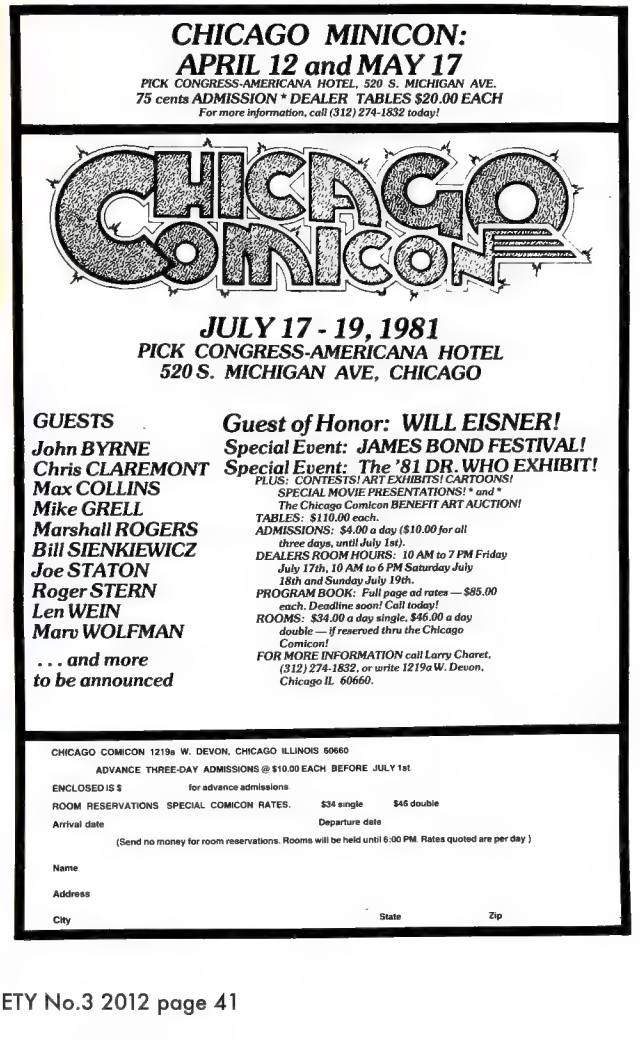
"I don't remember having an especially good show and I don't think Early Wynn was terrifically impressed either. BUT! It was a convention in the town where all of my relatives lived so that counted for something."

- Dave Sim

"First Chicago convention where I was a guest, this ad is from the COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE. It was the convention where I met both Jack Kirby and Colleen Doran for the first time."

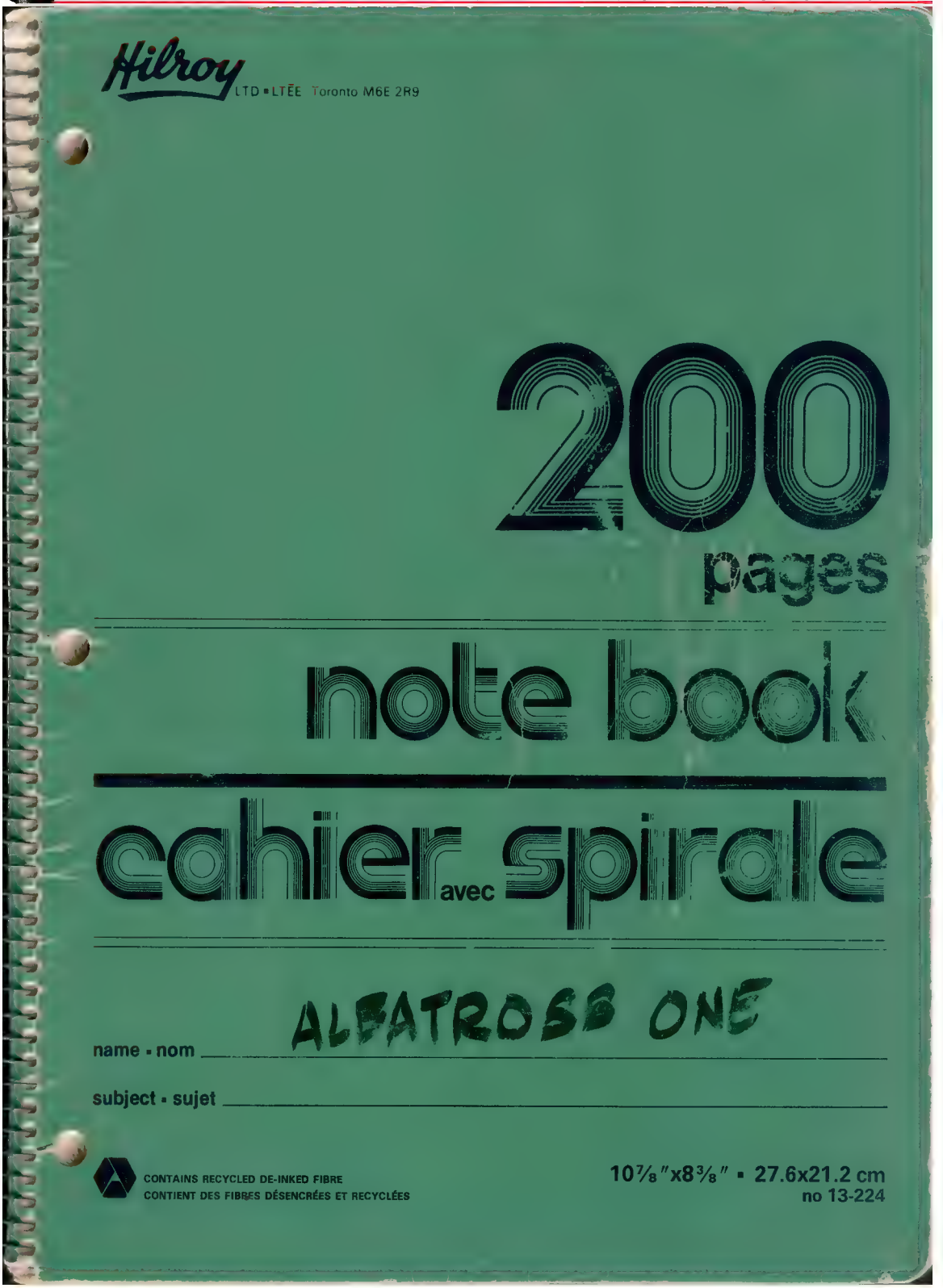
- Dave Sim



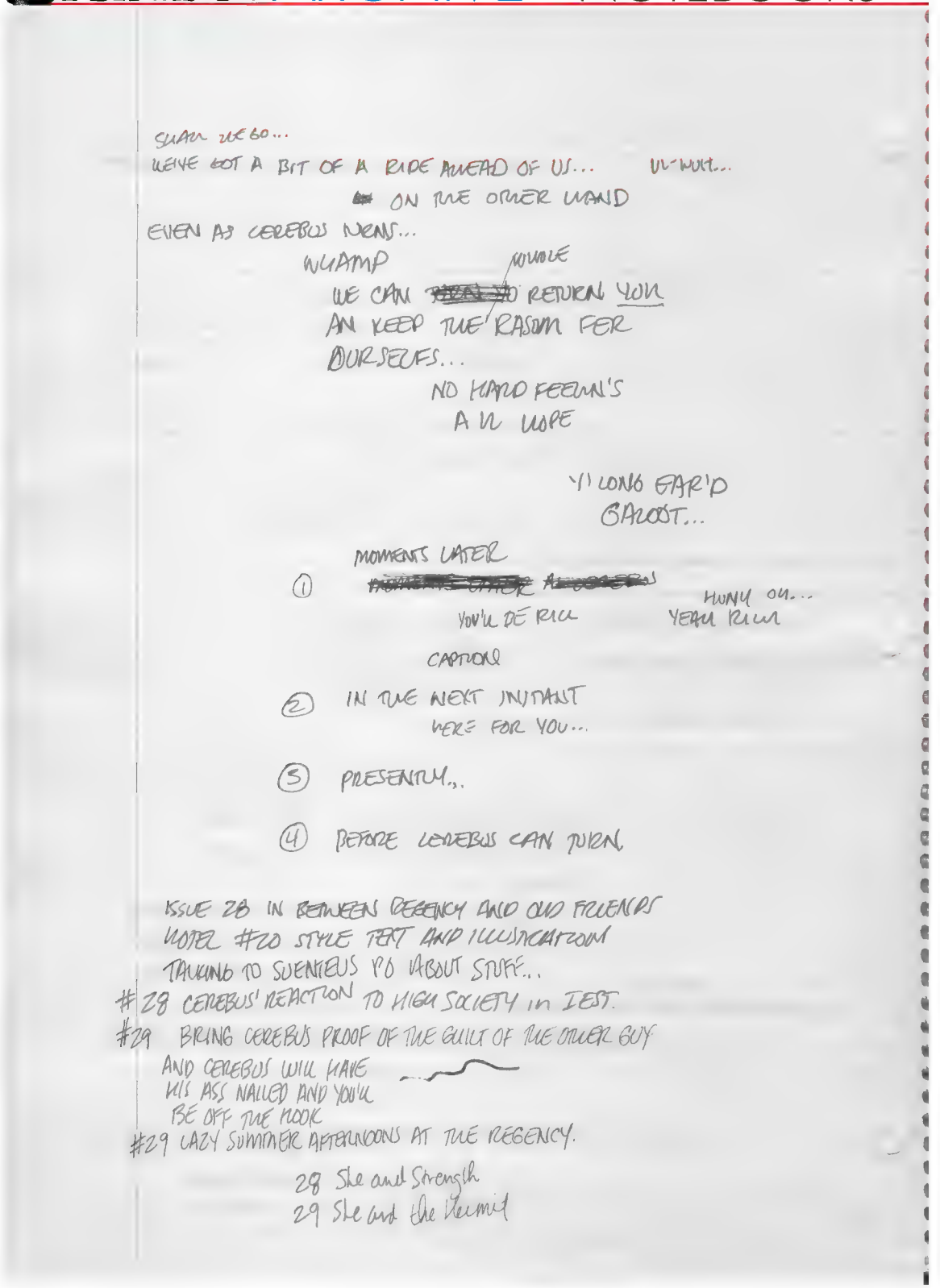

CHICAGO MINICON:
APRIL 12 and MAY 17
PICK CONGRESS-AMERICANA HOTEL, 520 S. MICHIGAN AVE.
75 cents ADMISSION * DEALER TABLES $20.00 EACH
For more information, call (312) 274-1832 today!
CHICAGO COMICON
JULY 17 - 19, 1981
PICK CONGRESS-AMERICANA HOTEL
520 S. MICHIGAN AVE, CHICAGO
GUESTS
John BYRNE
Chris CLAREMONT
Max COLLINS
Mike GRELL
Marshall ROGERS
Bill SIENKIEWICZ
Joe STATON
Roger STERN
Len WEIN
Marv WOLFMAN
. . . and more to be announced
Guest of Honor: WILL EISNER!
Special Event: JAMES BOND FESTIVAL!
Special Event: The '81 DR. WHO EXHIBIT!
PLUS: CONTESTS! ART EXHIBITS! CARTOONS!
SPECIAL MOVIE PRESENTATIONS! * and *
The Chicago Comicon BENEFIT ART AUCTION!
TABLES: $110.00 each.
ADMISSIONS: $4.00 a day ($10.00 for all three days, until July 1st).
DEALERS ROOM HOURS: 10 AM to 7 PM Friday July 17th, 10 AM to 6 PM Saturday July 18th and Sunday July 19th.
PROGRAM BOOK: Full page ad rates — $85.00 each. Deadline soon! Call today!
ROOMS: $34.00 a day single, $46.00 a day double — if reserved thru the Chicago Comicon!
FOR MORE INFORMATION call Larry Charet, (312) 274-1832, or write 1219a W. Devon, Chicago IL 60660.
CHICAGO COMICON 1219a W. DEVON, CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60660
ADVANCE THREE-DAY ADMISSIONS @ $10.00 EACH BEFORE JULY 1st
ENCLOSED IS $ for advance admissions
ROOM RESERVATIONS SPECIAL COMICON RATES. $34 single $45 double
Arrival date Departure date
(Send no money for room reservations. Rooms will be held until 6:00 PM. Rates quoted are per day.)
Name
Address
City State Zip

CEREBUS ARCHIVE NOTEBOOKS

"Albatross One"



I began using notebooks to plot CEREBUS beginning with issue 20. I called the notebook my "albatross" since it was always with me, a constant reminder of work I had to do. Plotting for HIGH SOCIETY began on page 135 of the 200-page "Albatross One" (although much plotting of the various political factions takes place on the earlier pages and on – now long gone – scraps of paper).


SUAH WE GO...
WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A RIDE AHEAD OF US... UH-HUH...
ON THE OTHER HAND
EVEN AS CEREBUS TURNS...
WHAMP
WHILE
WE CAN RETURN YOU
AN KEEP THE RASON FER
OURSELVES...
NO HARD FEELIN'S
AN HOPE
'N LONG FAR'D
GALOOT...
MOMENTS LATER
YOU'LL BE RICH
HUNH OH...
YEAH RICH
CAPTION:
IN THE NEXT INSTANT
HERE FOR YOU...
PRESENTLY...
BEFORE CEREBUS CAN TURN
ISSUE 28 IN BETWEEN REGENCY AND OLD FRIENDS
MORE #20 STYLE TEXT AND ILLUSTRATION
TALKING TO SUENTEUS PO ABOUT STUFF...
#28 CEREBUS' REACTION TO HIGH SOCIETY IN TEXT.
#29 BRING CEREBUS PROOF OF THE GUILT OF THE OTHER GUY
AND CEREBUS WILL HAVE
HIS ASS NAILED AND YOU'LL
BE OFF THE HOOK
#29 LAZY SUMMER AFTERNOONS AT THE REGENCY.
28 She and Strength
29 She and the Hermit

HSANB1/28 - What would usually happen with a mostly text issue like No.28 is that I would set out to use it to impart a lot of very dry background information (allocating 2 pages to discuss Money, 2 pages to discuss Death, 1 page to discuss Taxes, 3 pages to discuss Poor People, 4 pages to discuss Cities and 2 pages to discuss Cerebus' Origins) and then find that conversations just don't "go" like that – particularly when Cerebus, wisely, distrusts the person he's speaking with. *continued...*

SUMM WE GO...
WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A RIDE AHEAD OF US... UH-HUH...
~~AH~~ ON THE OTHER HAND
EVEN AS CEREBUS MENS...
WHAMP WHILE
WE CAN ~~[redacted]~~ RETURN YOU
AN KEEP THE RASIN FER
OURSELVES...
NO HARD FEELIN'S
AH HOPE

'N' LONG EAR'D
GALOOT...

MOMENTS LATER
① ~~[redacted]~~
YOU'LL BE RICH HUNH OH...
YEAH RICH

CAPTION:
② IN THE NEXT INSTANT
HERE FOR YOU...

③ PRESENTLY...

④ BEFORE CEREBUS CAN TURN

ISSUE 28 IN BETWEEN REGENCY AND OLD FRIENDS
MODEL #20 STYLE TEXT AND ILLUSTRATION
TALKING TO SUENTEUS PO ABOUT STUFF...
#28 CEREBUS' REACTION TO HIGH SOCIETY IN TEXT.
#29 BRING CEREBUS PROOF OF THE GUILT OF THE OTHER GUY
AND CEREBUS WILL HAVE
HIS ASS NAILED AND YOU'LL
BE OFF THE HOOK
#29 LAZY SUMMER AFTERNOONS AT THE REGENCY.

28 She and Strength
29 She and the Hermit

The entertainment writer focuses on the distrust as a way to write an entertaining conversation – and there goes the background information writer's vehicle. For example "Wenda - Executive Cirinist for Togith" and "Po - Head of Illusionism" are both accurate, but not anything Po would be apt to impart while mining Cerebus for info.

CEREBUS No. 28 (July 1981)

"MIND GAME II"

topics: LORD JULIUS 3 PAGES CEREBUS view Po gives history.

[redacted] 1 PAGE

HOW CEREBUS GOT FROM TOKYO TO BERLIN 3 (PAGE 2)

WHERE CEREBUS IS NOW. [redacted]

WHAT THE SEVENTH SPHERE IS FOR. [redacted]

MONEY 2 PAGES

DEATH 2 PAGES

TAXES 1 PAGE

POOR PEOPLE 3 PAGES

CITIES in 4

CEREBUS' ORIGINS. 2 PAGES.

CEREBUS can see everyone's throat muscles

Illusionists have their shot at it as soon as they pick CEREBUS up.

PROSE CAPTIONS and dialogue rendered script fashion

CEREBUS WAKES UP READY FOR A FIGHT. "THE NERVE of [redacted] dirty Fleagle. Oh oh it's ALICE in WONDERLAND again "CEREBUS? God it's been months -- I thought the CIRCUITS had you." "What happened" "You mean while [redacted] that battle was going on?" "heads slipped CEREBUS a drug" "and...?" Cerebus woke up about a month later in Berlin." "[redacted]

"CEREBUS doesn't mean to be nosey, but he doesn't understand how he ends up here all the time."

WENDA and PO are both magicians off-setting each other, they just happen to be heads of religious movements as well

WENDA - Executive Christ for Tokyo

PO - Head of Illusionism

PAGE TWO: [redacted] How do you feel usually

Paranoid -- everyone around you is an enemy

Sure

Well here you don't have that. Wherever your physical body is, you're not aware enough of it

HSANB 2/28 - Trying to distill Illusionist philosophy as Po was applying it to mining Cerebus for information and then realizing that it's ALSO not something Po would be apt to impart either. He would have been aware of the possibility that Cerebus had either planned his own kidnapping or was allied with those who had and want to know if Cerebus was actually part of "Eye in the Pyramid" or if he just used the name to get results but not wanting to ask directly...

continued...

CEREBUS No. 28 (July 1981)

"MIND GAME II"

topics: LORD JULIUS 3 PAGES CEREBUS view Po gives history.

[redacted] 1 PAGE

HOW CEREBUS GOT FROM TOGITH TO BERLIN 1 PAGE (2)

WHERE CEREBUS IS NOW. [redacted]

WHAT THE SEVENTH SPHERE IS FOR. [redacted]

MONEY 2 PAGES

DEATH 2 PAGES

TAXES 1 PAGE

POOR PEOPLE 3 PAGES

CITIES in 4

CEREBUS' ORIGINS. 2 PAGES.

CEREBUS can see everyone's throat muscles

Illusionists have their shot at it as soon as they pick CEREBUS up.

PROSE CAPTIONS and dialogue rendered script fashion

CEREBUS WAKES UP READY FOR A FIGHT. "THE NERVE of [redacted] dirty Pleagle. Oh oh it's ALICE in WONDERLAND again "CEREBUS? God it's been months -- I thought the CIRINISTS had you." "What happened" "You mean while [redacted] that battle was going on?" "Heads slipped CEREBUS a drug" "and...?" Cerebus woke up about a month later in Berlin." "[redacted]

"CEREBUS doesn't mean to be nosey, but he doesn't understand how he ends up here all the time."

WENDA and PO are both magicians off-setting each other, they just happen to be heads of religious movements as well

WENDA - Executive Cirinist for Togith

PO - Head of Illusionism

PAGE TWO: [redacted] How do you feel usually

Paranoid -- everyone around you is an enemy

Sure

Well here you don't have that. Wherever your physical body is, you're not aware enough of it

(and in a larger sense wanting to dissuade Cerebus from "hands-on" political participation of any kind – that is, to persuade Cerebus to favour Illusionism – in the hopes that Cerebus could be lured away from Cirinism, Kevillism and Orthodox Tarimite faith: which is difficult to accomplish when you're mostly interested in "hands-on" political realities. Something that Cerebus picks up on and gives Po a hard time about). Layers upon layers upon layers of different perceptions and possibilities.

CIRE } AIR
NAI }
DAVE FIRE

to ~~[redacted]~~ save it if it's in danger, so you might as well relax. right?
So why do you come here
~~the to only a few of us~~
JOFIRE
JIFRA
JEFIKA'S
It's mostly just to talk to sort things out, you know?
Sort things out.
It's like talking to a trusted friend -- but more so since we tend not to ~~[redacted]~~ associate with each other when existing in our physical forms.
It's rather like thinking except you have someone

"There are few things in the world that any of us can truly know for certain. ~~We can't [redacted]~~
It must be the goal of all civilized peoples to invest. Be it yesterday not ~~only~~ their leadership, but themselves. Leadership of a ~~group~~ family, of a body of great thinkers, of a city or even a country should ~~[redacted]~~ ~~[redacted]~~ ~~[redacted]~~

CIRE } AIR
NAI }
DAVE FIRE

to ~~[redacted]~~ save it if it's in danger, so you might as well relax. right?
So why do you come here.
~~the is only a few of us~~
OFFICE
JIFKA
JEFKA'S
It's mostly just to talk to sort things out, you know?
Sort things out.
It's like talking to a trusted friend -- but more so since we tend not to ~~[redacted]~~ associate with each other when existing in our physical forms.
It's rather like thinking except you have someone

"There are few things in this world that any of us can truly know for certain. ~~We can't [redacted]~~
It must be the goal of all civilized peoples to insure. Be it leadership not ~~only~~ their leadership, but themselves. Leadership of a ~~group~~ family, of a body of next thinkers, of a city or even a country should ~~[redacted]~~ ~~[redacted]~~ ~~[redacted]~~

KEEP HIM DRUGGED UNTIL GORIS HAD ENOUGH TROOPS TO DEFEAT TIGITANS. NO IDEA OF HOW GOOD A LEADER CEREBUS WOULD BE, SO THEY WANTED HIM OUT OF THE WAY. JUST IN CASE PROPHECIES OF A LIBERATOR WERE TRUE.

THREE AARDVARKS WERE BORN WITHIN A FEW YEARS OF EACH OTHER DURING THE BLACK TOWER EMPIRE. LED TO COLAPSE AND DEATH OF TWO OF THEM

EAGLE. AND DREW LEAVE ANONYMOUS NOTE ~~TOWER~~ ~~[redacted]~~(~~AT THE REGENCY~~ IN LOCAL PRECINCT HOUSE TELLING WHERE CEREBUS CAN BE FOUND AND GO TO PICK UP RANSOM. CEREBUS IS LOCATED. WHAT TO DO? LET'S DRUG HIM AND FIND OUT WHAT'S ON HIS MIND. THE CIRINIST DRUG--THE ONE THEY'RE USING AS A TRUTH SERUM THESE DAYS. FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON. ~~COMES BACK FOR~~ ~~ALBATROSS INDICTMENT~~ IT IS ~~CARVED~~ SOLID, ESCAPE BLACK TOWER ~~ESCAPE~~ ALBATROSS. OUTER LAYER IS A PROTECTIVE COATING

"The treasure underneath is surely the finest of its kind to be found"

It is a source of great power and should not be dealt with in a casual manner.

It if a source of great power and must needs be used wisely

inside ~~Hardship~~ the GRANDDUKE and the wife of his most trusted ~~minister~~ ~~[redacted]~~ cabinet member ~~for money~~ and a tryst on the night of the FESTIVAL of Restwise.

What is on P's mind?

Who kidnapped CEREBUS? How did he know to ask for respectable draughts on the bank of Smina (privileged information) Is this a new group we aren't on top of or is it an old one with a new face. CIRINIST or Illuminist? Orthodox Varmite?

HSANB 4/28 - "It's not everyone who gets to be Kitchen Staff Supervisor. Why does everyone attach so much importance to that title? That was the position Lord Julius held during Lord [_____]'s administration" I couldn't steer the conversation to that point and, instead, later had Astoria tell Cerebus.

DID YOU SIGN YOUR PLEDGE OF FAITH TO TARIM. everyone signs.

PS I can just sort of hear you like you were talking to me from another room.

What's on CEREBUS' mind!?

Where are DIRTY FLEAGLE and DIRTY DRINK?

I was unconscious when DIRTY FLEAGLE hit me. Am I still in that hotel room.

I don't know. I'm still in Togith. Wherever you are you're coming in loud and clear

~~What does it~~ recollections of seeing magic when he was younger

If you're the same CEREBUS THE AARDVARK that everyone talks about lately, you must have a great deal on your mind. It's not everyone who gets to be kitchen staff apprentices in Palnu.

Why does everyone attach so much importance to that title.

That was the position Lord Julius held during Lord ~~[illegible]~~'s administration. ~~LORD [illegible]~~'s ~~[illegible]~~'s LORD JULIUS came up with the rotating buzzer while watching a chicken be roasted on a spit. He had ~~[illegible]~~ been a childhood friend of.

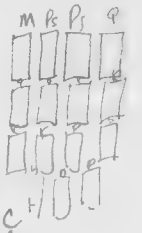
HSANB 5/28 - Then I'd start writing out "everything I've told them so far"...

88PGS 6 INTRO PAGES 6 PAGES UNIQUEAD
5 PAGES 2 PAGE © AN STUFF
OU.

BLOOD WARS AMONG CLANS IN BOREALIS. EAST IS CIVILIZED FOLKS WEST IS NATIVE BARBARIANS.
PARANIANS ARE FAR FAR MORON.
DEMON KHEM EYE OF TERIM
HENROT: TANSUBAL
BARONS IN EXILE PANRONY.
SEPRAN EMPIRE LOOSELY KNIT.
CONSERVATIVE EYE OUT FOR STRANGERS TYPES IN SEPRAN EMPIRE. MELVINBONE

REDEEMER DYNASTY SOPHISTATE PRISON
EASTERN MONOLITH'S RED MARCHES SEPRAN MERCENARIES
BLACK TOWER EMPIRE GUARDING THEIR SQUARE OF IT
TARIM ASUTOTH.
TEMPLE OF THE BLACK SUN not far from LEST.
TREACHEROUS TERRAIN

TRIBAL CONNIPTON'S LEADER HEZZRETH
(EP) BLACK TOWER EMPIRE



USIFANS orientals IMESH USIFAN city
CONNIPTONS
PICTS

K'COR LIKE JIMMY JONES "KING OF IMESH"
BLACK VERSUS WHITE USIFAN TRIBAL MAGIC
DIAMONDBACK "one magician" was one of the more lasting
ENERGY GLOBES of IMESH.
KING KOREM Pan-vician King Arthur wiped out by rising merchant class.
BLACK BLOSSOM LOTUS. HERCES AMSTANAT GOD-KING COUNCIL HEAD in PALNU. (Change hasn't happened yet)

HSANB 6/28 - ...and then realize a) it's already too much to distill into a page or two in any rational order b) it will soon be impossible to do and c) it doesn't actually get the next page of the next issue written which needed to be my first priority.

LOWER FEUDA
THEIR

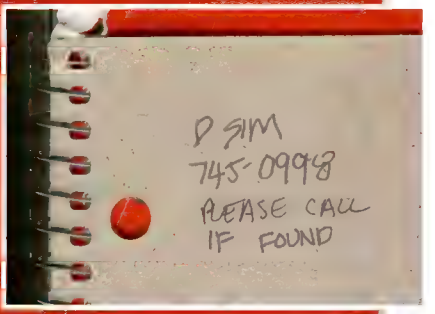
FIVE HOUSES OF PALNU.
CURNIST
ILLUSIONIST
ILLUSIONIST SPLINTER
CURNIST SPLINTER KEVILLISM
ORTHODOX TARAMITE
LORD AND LADY WYNDMER-SMITH
ARISTONMIA
LUCIUS.
PALNU'S BOARD OF JUSTICE
LETTER FOR GUIDE FROM PERCE.
KEVILLIST REBELLION IN BEDUIN FIVE YEARS AGO
TEMPORARY PASSAGE TREATY LOWER FEUDA AND
SERPIAN EMPIRE.

END "ALBATROSS ONE"
Notebook No. 1

Hilroy

0 65800 13224

inside back over note.



200 pages

note book cahier avec spirale

name-nom

subject-sujet

HILROY LTD.-LTÉE Toronto M6E 2R9
Made in Canada • Fabriqué au Canada

27.6 x 21.3 cm
no 13-224

START "ALBATROSS, TOO"
Notebook No.2

CEREBUS N°28 (~~JUNE~~ JULY 1981)
"MIND GAME II"

CEREBUS and PO

CEREBUS: HOW did CEREBUS get from TOGITH to BEDUIN

PO: PRIMARY BATTLE ↓ CIRINIST VERSUS ORTHODOX TARCHMITE. ILLUSIONISM is the study of ~~the~~ universal truth. We have prepared countless volumes dealing with the subject of the invariable

CEREBUS: like what?

PO: "No one walks past a gold coin lying on a sidewalk" That was one of my earliest ones.

CEREBUS: So who's winning this war between CIRINISM and TARCHMITE ORTHODOXY?

PO: That's not an easy question to answer. Cirin still has pretty good control of UPPER FELDA. A cynic would say that it was largely due to the co-opting of influential Republicans after the revolution. She's a master politician - I'll give her that. Lower Felda is proving reasonably susceptible to infiltration - which I'm sure is something to surprise the military tribunal in Beduin. If they had a sense of history, they'd realise that their military control is something of an oddity in that country's history - the grassroots sympathy is with a matriarchy. ~~The Republican~~ TARCHMITE IMPERIAL CHURCH OF SEPRA tends to VIEW IEST as a major stronghold and considers its MOUNTAIN PARLIAMENT as essentially loyal. It isn't of course, which reduces their secure holdings to ~~the capital~~ of SEPRA itself and a few surrounding provinces. I suppose you could say ESUNOSOPHE is ORTHODOX, but that would ~~be~~ ~~ignoring~~ take into account that the practice of the ORTHODOX church in that city are indistinguishable from the ancient discipline of the AMISTANIAT - the corn king has been renamed the CIRINIST FOOL, but his ritual sacrifice is still directed

HSANB 7/28 - Another good example of how I would start to impart dry information so people had a background in Estarcion's various political factions and countries, here starting with Po waxing philosophical about Cirin's co-opting of the old Corn King rituals – renamed the Cirinist Fool – as well as the relationship between the Church of Sepra (the Western Church in the Sepran Empire) and the military government in Beduin (Lower Felda) and Cirin's revolutionary government in Upper Felda...

at the elder earth-gods and not the living TARIM as his holiness assumes
What about PALNU?
I imagine you know more about PALNU than I. I understand you spent some time there.
A couple of months. CEREBUS was....
Kitchen Staff Supervisor. Did you know that was LORD Julius' post before he became GRANDLORD?
No. What is he ORTHODOX TARIMITE or UKRANIST.
uh-- there's no real way of telling for certain. His constituency tends to be the army, the merchant class and the bureaucrats. Quite innovative, actually -- he's gone in the face of traditional alliances and selects his inner circle on the basis of ability rather than religious beliefs. What did you think of him.
About the third or fourth day then, CEREBUS ~~was~~ dropped in on him to discuss some new information CEREBUS had on the "EYE in the PYRAMID" rebels. We talked for ~~about~~ a ~~half hour or so while~~ while and the whole time, he kept tearing open ~~envelopes~~ them and dumping the contents on the desk in front of him.

taking envelopes out of a large sack

What was in the envelopes
Money. Crown notes, securities, bonds, coins made of white gold, rare gems... ~~Cerebus wouldn't be impressed that was~~ thousands and thousands of crowns and CEREBUS only watched for a matter of minutes.
That impressed you did it?
Aye. Cerebus had seen that much money before, but it was always loot from some massive raid or an unprotected ~~city~~ city whose worth could be measured in the number of lives it had cost its new owners. And here was LORD Julius ~~methodically~~ absently sorting it into piles and cataloguing it in a ~~large~~ ledger. Cerebus always measures others by their sword arms, their quickness. Beyond that

HSANB 8/28 - ...segueing into Cerebus' firsthand observation of how Palnu functioned – basically as a kleptocracy with Lord Julius at the apex – and Po's observation that it's basically a tripartite structure: the Army, the emerging merchant class and the Bureaucracy. All very informative but not very conversational and not very entertaining for most of the audience who weren't continuity junkies.

he had never seen any value in humans. CEREBUS could have snapped LORD JULIUS in two without working up a sweat.

Why didn't you?

Cerebus couldn't make it work like it was... CEREBUS tried to figure out how much of the loot he could carry. Maybe one sack the size of the one he was taking the envelopes ~~out~~ out of. If CEREBUS was to keep one hand free for dispatching the guards, he might only be able to carry half a sack. Even then there was no guarantee that he would live to reach the gate. A crossbow or a spear would...

I see.

Cerebus thought about killing the guards to grab loot and we'd all make a run for it, splitting the proceeds later on.

Why didn't you?

These city dwellers, they... Each of those guards had an apartment in the TRADE BUILDING some of them had probably served ~~for~~ the HOUSE OF TAVERS for twenty years. They had families and more money than most SEPHRAN officers. They were ~~in~~ Settled.

Cerebus doesn't understand it, but CEREBUS... recognized a no-win situation?

Aye.

That's why CEREBUS left. In his spare time he started making friends with ~~Guards~~ City-guards, high ranking cabinet ministers - nothing elaborate, just laying the groundwork for a small conspiracy -- skim a few hundred thousand crowns off the top and leave before anyone checked the book-keeping.

And?

They were never in the same place two days in a row. When CEREBUS asked where they had been transferred to, he was put on Lord Julius' Conspiracy report. Cerebus made a few more months of bribery

HSANB 9/28 - "...skim a few hundred thousand crowns off the top and leave before anyone checked the bookkeeping.
And?
They were never in the same place two days in a row. When Cerebus asked where they had been transferred to, he was put on Lord Julius' Conspiracy Report."

continued...

he had never seen any value in humans. CEREBUS could have snapped LORD JULIUS in two without working up a sweat.

Why didn't you?

Cerebus couldn't make it work like it was... CEREBUS tried to figure out how much of the loot he could carry. Maybe one sack the size of the one he was taking the envelopes ~~out~~ out of. If CEREBUS was to keep one hand free for dispatching the guards, he might only be able to carry half a sack. Even then there was no guarantee that he would live to reach the gate. A crossbow or a spear would...

I see.

Cerebus thought about killing the guards to grab loot and we'd all make a run for it, splitting the proceeds later on.

Why didn't you?

These city dwellers, they... Each of those guards had an apartment in the TRADE BUILDING some of them had probably served ~~for~~ the HOUSE of TAVERS for twenty years. They had families ~~to~~ and more money than most SEPHRAN officers. They were ~~to~~ settled.

Cerebus doesn't understand it, but CEREBUS... recognized a no-win situation?

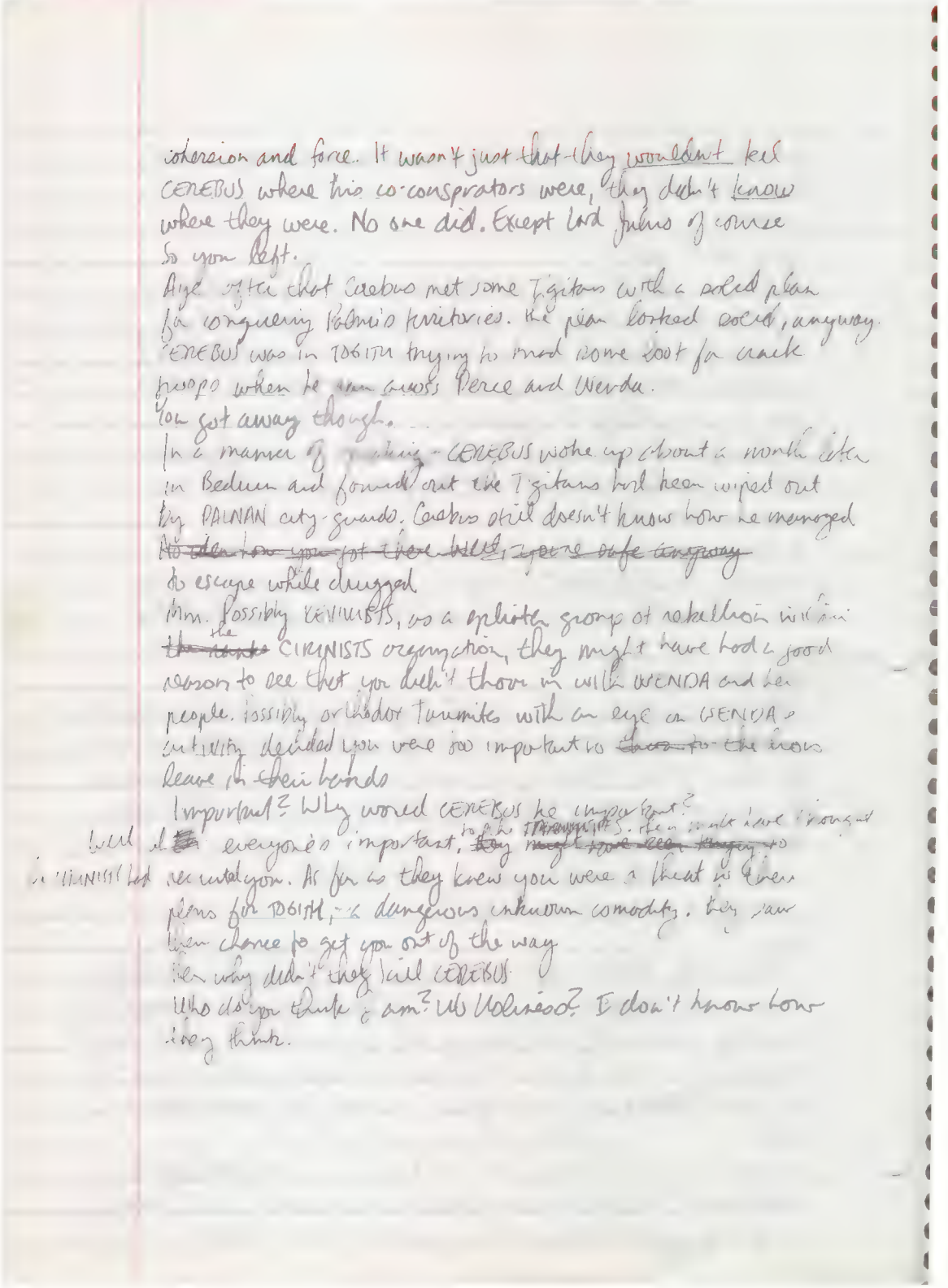
Aye.

That's why CEREBUS left. In his spare time he started making friends with ~~Guards~~ City-guards, high ranking cabinet ministers - nothing elaborate, just laying the groundwork for a small conspiracy -- skim a few hundred thousand crowns off the top and leave before anyone checked the book-keeping.

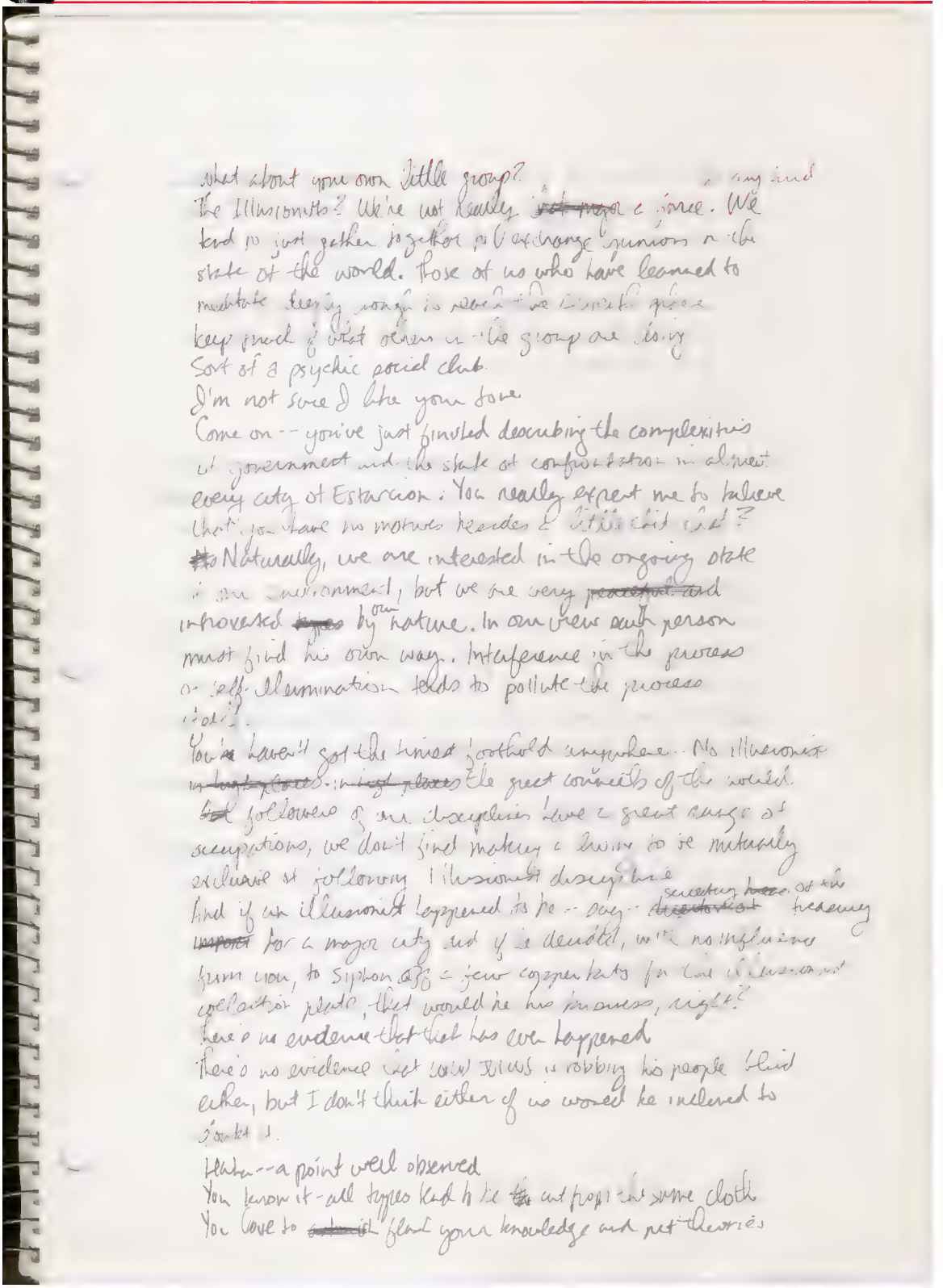
And?

They were never in the same place two days in a row. When CEREBUS asked where they had been transferred to, he was put on Lord Jakha's conspiracy report. Cerebus made a few more visits of bribery

An effective explanation of how Palnu "worked" but, again, not something Cerebus would be forthcoming about with someone he was already suspicious of (Po). It would take me until well into JAKA'S STORY – seven years later – to actually get that information across to the reader.


coherecion and force. It wasn't just that they wouldn't let
CEREBUS where his co-conspirators were, they didn't know
where they were. No one did. Except Lord Julius of course
So you left.
Aye after that Cerebus met some Tzigitans with a solid plan
for conquering Palnia's territories. The plan looked solid, anyway.
CEREBUS was in TORITH trying to steal some loot for crack
troops when he saw Cirnos Pierce and Wenda.
You got away though.
In a manner of speaking - CEREBUS woke up about a month later
in Bedlam and found out the Tzigitans had been wiped out
by PALNAN city-guards. Cerebus still doesn't know how he managed
~~No then how you got there Well, you're safe anyway~~
to escape while drugged
Mm. Possibly KEVILLISTS, as a splinter group of rebellion within the
~~the Cirinists~~ CIRINISTS organization, they might have had a good
reason to see that you didn't throw in with WENDA and her
people. Possibly Orthodox Tarimites with an eye on WENDA's
activity decided you were too important to ~~leave~~ to the Cirinists
leave in their hands
Important? Why would CEREBUS be important?
Well I ~~don't~~ everyone's important, ~~they~~ to the Cirinists. They might have seen things as
the CIRINISTS had recruited you. As far as they knew you were a threat to their
plans for TORITH, a dangerous unknown comodity. They saw
their chance to get you out of the way
Then why didn't they kill CEREBUS
Who do you think I am? Mr Holmes? I don't know how
they think.

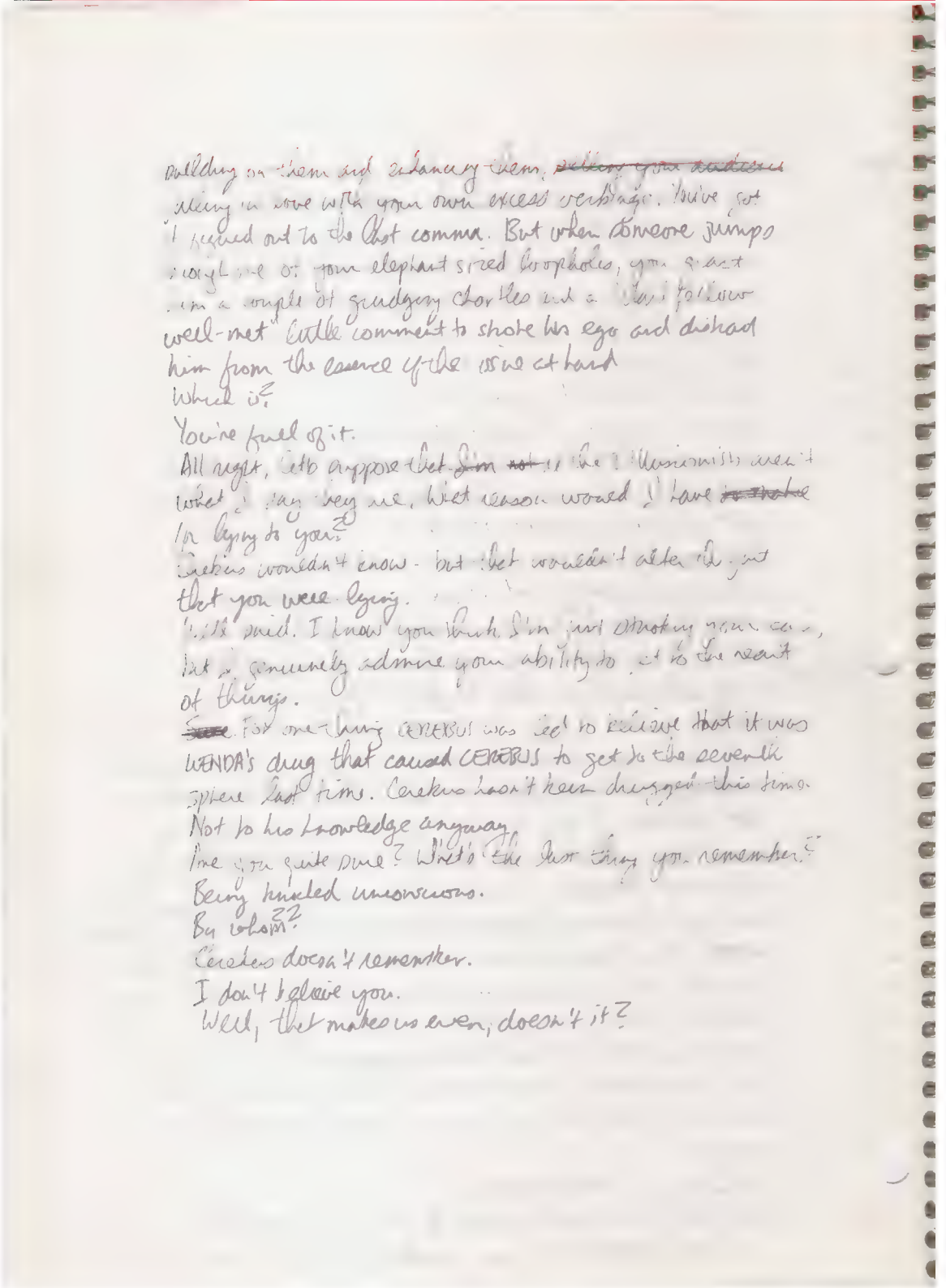
HSANB 10/28 - "Mm. Possibly Kevillists, as a splinter group of rebellion, within the Cirinist organization, they might have had a good reason to see that you didn't throw in with Wenda and her people. Possibly Orthodox Tarimites with an eye on Wenda's activity decided you were too important to leave in their hands."
The former as could be seen by "What Happened Between Issues 20 and 21."


what about your own little group?
The Illusionists? We're not really a force. We
tend to just gather together & exchange opinions on the
state of the world. Those of us who have learned to
meditate keep track of what others in the group are doing
Sort of a psychic social club.
I'm not sure I like your tone
Come on -- you've just finished describing the complexities
of government and the state of confrontation in almost
every city of Estarcion. You really expect me to believe
that you have no motives besides a little chit chat?
Naturally, we are interested in the ongoing state
of our environment, but we are very
introverted by nature. In our view each person
must find his own way. Interference in the process
of self-illumination tends to pollute the process
itself.
You haven't got the tiniest toehold anywhere. No Illusionist
in high places. The great councils of the world.
Followers of our discipline have a great range of
occupations, we don't find making a living to be mutually
exclusive of following Illusionist discipline
Secretary of the
kind if an Illusionist happened to be -- say -- Treasury
for a major city and if he decided, we'll no influence
from you, to siphon off a few copper bits for the Illusionist
collection plate, that would be his business, right?
There's no evidence that that has ever happened
There's no evidence that Lord Julius is robbing his people blind
either, but I don't think either of us would be inclined to
doubt it.
Hahn -- a point well observed
You know it - all types tend to be cut from the same cloth
You have to blend your knowledge and not theories

HSANB 11/28 - TEN PAGES of solid writing and I FINALLY get to a usable conversational fragment that Cerebus and Po would actually have about Illusionism.

building on them and enhancing them, ~~falling in love~~ filling in love with your own excess verbiage. You've got it ~~figured~~ out to the last comma. But when someone jumps through one of your elephant sized loopholes, you grant him a couple of grudging chortles and a 'Hail fellow well met' little comment to stroke his ego and distract him from the essence of the issue at hand
Which is?
You're fond of it.
All right, let's suppose that ~~Jim~~ ~~not~~ the Unconscious aren't what I say they are, what reason would I have ~~to invent~~ in lying to you?
Cerebus wouldn't know - but that wouldn't alter the fact that you were lying.
Well said. I know you think I'm just stroking your ego, but I genuinely admire your ability to get to the heart of things.
~~Since~~ For one thing CEREBUS was led to believe that it was WANDA's drug that caused CEREBUS to get into the seventh sphere ~~last~~ time. Cerebus hasn't been drugged this time.
Not to his knowledge anyway.
Are you quite sure? What's the last thing you remember?
Being knocked unconscious.
By whom??
Cerebus doesn't remember.
I don't believe you.
Well, that makes us even, doesn't it?

HSANB 12/28 - "You know-it-all types tend to be cut from the same cloth: you love to flash your knowledge and pet theories, building on them and enhancing them, falling in love with your own excess verbiage. You've got it figured out to the last comma. But when someone jumps through one of your elephant-sized loopholes, you grant him a couple of grudging chortles and a 'Hail fellow-well-met' little comment to stroke his ego and distract him from the essence of the issue at hand. *continued...*


building on them and balancing them, ~~adding your footnotes~~
along with your own excess verbiage. You've got
it figured out to the last comma. But when someone jumps
on one of your elephant sized loopholes, you react
with a couple of grudging chortles and a "Well, follow
well-met" little comment to shake his ego and distract
him from the essence of the issue at hand
Which is?
You're full of it.
All right, let's suppose that ~~Sim not~~ the Illusionists weren't
what I say they are, what reason would I have ~~to invent~~
to lying to you?
Cerebus wouldn't know - but that wouldn't alter the fact
that you were lying.
I'll admit. I know you think Sim just stroking your ego,
but I genuinely admire your ability to get to the heart
of things.
~~Sure~~. For one thing CEREBUS was led to believe that it was
LENDA's drug that caused CEREBUS to get to the seventh
sphere last time. Cerebus hasn't been drugged this time.
Not to his knowledge anyway.
Are you quite sure? What's the last thing you remember?
Being hauled unconscious.
By whom??
Cerebus doesn't remember.
I don't believe you.
Well, that makes us even, doesn't it?

Which is?
You're full of it."
It's a very nice piece of writing, only it doesn't sound remotely like Cerebus – even making allowances for enhanced mental communications in the Eighth Sphere.

CEREBUS SOLILOQUY IN GRAVEYARD. DREAM SEQUENCE

And all of that doesn't take into account the ~~two~~ major splinter groups within the CIRINIST'S ranks. They tend to view the ICEVICUSTS as a recent aberration that has peaked and is now in decline. There have been some interesting developments in WAR OF TI, however -- members of the royal family have been overheard advocating the

then world view is at odds over the influence of Illusionists

CEREBUS: How many are there of you

point being if ~~the~~ your followers are as loosely knit as you say, your movement would be closer to what I say it is and you wouldn't know splinter groups.

When CEREBUS was in Palnu, there seemed to be a lot of Illusionist talk going around. They seemed most interested in seeing ~~to kind of~~ ~~[illegible]~~ change. They wanted the bureaucracy changed, they wanted control of the decision-making changed. They wanted a fairer distribution of wealth and a change in the immigration laws. ~~It seems like the~~ Illusionists ~~[illegible]~~ talk about change like it was a magic purifying ritual. If something doesn't work, change it and it will work.

Of course, what you saw was the ~~surface~~ form and not the substance of Illusionism. We want change because we feel the power groups in control of Estarcion's wealth aren't capable of reaching a consensus; there is no sense of universal truth to what they do.

Universal truth? You think the Illusionists had any better idea of truth than the governments? They know universal truth, all right.

HSANB 13/28 - "When Cerebus was in Palnu, there seemed to be a lot of Illusionist talk going around. They seemed most interested in seeing change. They wanted the bureaucracy changed, they wanted control of the decision-making changed. They wanted a fairer distribution of wealth and a change in the immigration laws. *continued...*

CEREBUS SOLILOQUY IN GRAVEYARD. DREAM SEQUENCE

And all of that doesn't take into account the ~~two~~ major splinter groups within the CIRINIST'S ranks. They tend to view the ICEVICUSTS as a recent aberration that has peaked and is now in decline. There have been some interesting developments in WAKE OF PI, however -- members of the royal family have been overheard advocating the

then world view is at odds over the influence of Illusionists

CEREBUS: How many are there of you

point being if ~~the~~ your followers are as loosely knit as you say, your movement comes ~~be~~ closer to what I say it is and you wouldn't know splinter groups.

When CEREBUS was in ~~Palm~~, there seemed to be a lot of Illusionist talk going around. They seemed most interested in seeing ~~a kind of~~ ~~society off of~~ ~~real change~~ change. They wanted the bureaucracy changed, they wanted control of the decision making changed. They wanted a fairer distribution of wealth and a change in the immigration laws. ~~It seems like the~~ Illusionists ~~in the city to change~~ ~~in the city they were~~ talk about change like it was a magic purifying ritual. If something doesn't work, change it and it will work.

Of course, what you saw was the ~~surface~~ form and not the substance of Illusionism. We want change because we feel the power groups in control of Estarcion's wealth aren't capable of reaching a consensus; there is no sense of universal truth to what they do.

Universal truth? You think the Illusionists had any better idea of truth than the governments? They know universal truth, all right.

Illusionists talk[ed] about change like it was a magic purifying ritual. If something doesn't work, change it and it will work.' This seems quite prescient of Barack Obama's "Hope and Change" campaign slogan and it leading directly to the Occupy movement.

Cerebus spent an evening drinking with an Illusionist in Palnu a while ago. He kept gabbering about universal truth., that the Illusion

Cerebus has seen Illusionism in high places. Several of Lord Julius' advisors talked about "universal truth" almost exclusively. Cerebus attended a cabinet meeting once and Lord Julius' senior advisors were trying to find a compromise on the issue of a curfew for the city. Some of them were advocating sunset as the ideal curfew. One or two pointed out that that would underscore the dark power

Of course everyone has their own private theory as to what caused the cataclysm. Virtually everyone who was casting a spell at the time feels at least partially responsible for what happened. I met a chap in LEST who thought he had cast an exaltation spell by accident while toasting marshmallows and caused the conflagration that resulted.
It wasn't that long ago... maybe three hundred or four hundred years. Most people blankly look sick on it, consider it to be an event out of the dark primal past. A psychological blot maybe or an after-shock of the world wide quality of the event. Who can say? It's like history started over though. Even Square One. Three hundred or four hundred years and you'd be hard pressed to find two dozen people who are even aware that the cities they live in were built on top of the devastation.

Lengthy dissertation with CEREBUS inserting recollection of the PITS, the PIGTS, and other places. Po opens up because CEREBUS has had sufficient training in the mystic arts to understand what he is dealing with. Question comes down to whether ~~the~~ the magicians have any real say in the future of the world.

Black powers! A question of the necessity of conversion since that's exactly what it was. It was like a question

HSANB 14/28 - You can see here how, in the middle of creating an anecdote, I would stop dead, mid-sentence and start over when I thought I had found a better allusion.

Of whether a central body of knowledge for everyone to draw on
works comes down to whether you—like the cataclysm was
caused by the centralising of the knowledge or by the
exploitation and irresponsible use of the accumulated wealth.
the orthodox [animates], since they were the governing body of
those un-magical types, of course, see it as a judgement of
the living TARIM on questing after the unknown. Since the cataclysm
wiped out most of the practising magicians, conservatism would seem
to dictate turning away from magic permanently
So how come you know so much about it?
I'm one hundred and eighty-two years old. Even at that the cataclysm
took place almost a hundred years before I was born. What little I've
been able to piece together from conversation when I was just a boy
is still mostly conjecture mixed with fact. Conjecture aside,
[redacted] a major calamity in the occult world
occured some years ago which devastated most of the truly adept
magicians. Those who were left and their descendants

① Hello, CEREBUS.
It's Po again.

② I assume you've had no more trouble with the CIRCUMCISTS? Perhaps you would
let me know how you escaped from them. You remember don't you? It
was while [redacted] some of our chaps were burning bales of cloth in
the street. I lost contact with you just as the battle with the CIRCUMCISTS
was being decided. It was only when I started hearing heard that WENDA
was asking after you whereabouts that I figured it out.. somehow you'd
escaped! Must be quite a story [redacted] -- I can't remember the last time
someone's slipped the CIRCUMCIST's noose.

C: [redacted] Quite a story, indeed. And if CEREBUS ever finds out what the story is,
you'll be the first to know.

P: You're saying you don't know

HSANB 15 & 16/28 - "Lengthy dissertation with Cerebus inserting [his] recollection[s] of the Pits, the Pigts [underground city beneath the Red Marches] and other places. Po opens up because Cerebus has sufficient training in the mystic arts to understand what he is driving at. Question comes down to whether the magicians have any real say in the future of the world."
[Po:] "Black Tower? A question of the morality of consensus since that's exactly what it was. It was like a question of whether a central body of knowledge for everyone to draw on works.

continued...

Of whether a central body of knowledge for everyone to disagree on
I reckon comes down to whether you think the cataclysm was
caused by the centralizing of the knowledge or by the
exploitation and irresponsible use of the accumulated wealth.
The orthodox Tarimites, since they were the governing body of
those un-magical types, of course, see it as a judgement of
the living TARIM on questing after the unknown. Since the cataclysm
wiped out most of the practicing magicians, consensus would seem to
dictate turning away from magic permanently.
So how come you know so much about it?
I'm one hundred and eighty-two years old. Even at that the cataclysm
took place almost a hundred years before I was born. What little I've
been able to piece together from conversation when I was just a boy
is still mostly conjecture ~~and rumor~~ mixed with fact. Conjecture aside,
~~It was what they say~~ a major calamity in the occult world
occured some years ago which devastated most of the truly adept
magicians. Those who were left and their descendants

① Hello, CEREBUS.
It's Po again.

② I assume you've had no more trouble with the CIRCUITS? Perhaps you would
let me know how you escaped from them. You remember don't you? It
was while ~~we were~~ some of our chaps were burning bolts of cloth in
the street. I lost contact with you just as the battle with the CIRCUITS
was being decided. It was only when I ~~started hearing~~ heard that WENDA
was asking after you whereabouts that I figured it out.. somehow you'd
escaped! Must be quite a story ~~to tell~~ -- I can't remember the last time
someone's slipped the CIRCUIST's noose.

C: Quite a story, indeed. And if CEREBUS ever finds out what the story is,
you'll be the first to know.

P: You're saying you don't know

Comes down to whether you think the [C]ataclysm was caused by the centralizing of the knowledge or by the exploitation and irresponsible use of the accumulated wealth. The Orthodox Tarimites [–] since they were the governing body of those un-magical types, of course [–] see it as a [J]udgement of the Living Tarim on questing after the unknown. Since the [C]ataclysm wiped out most of the practicing magicians, consensus would seem to dictate turning away from magic permanently."

There are times CEREBUS thinks that he just about understandes what's going on. It's a brand new world. CEREBUS can remember when everyone he knew was a farmer, a miller or a soldier. When he had never seen a building over one ~~story~~ storey. The first time CEREBUS saw TANSUBAL, he was sick for almost a month. All of the people and their horse, and the street vendors and the city-guards and the wealthy merchants and women and children. CEREBUS felt like he had dropped into a ~~hunter's trap~~ hunters trap intended to snare human beings

~~You're not really convinced it's in TOGITH, my friend. The CIRINISTS have spread the lies you worry were on the rest of~~

ebus is going to have to wake up.

CEREBUS?, is that you?

Mm. Aye. Pa?

By the five spheres it is you, I've thought of little else since ~~I the night you~~ you slipped out of the Seventh Sphere. The first three ~~weeks~~ days were the worst -- I kept picturing you being tortured by the CIRINISTS; I kept seeing.... but you escaped somehow didn't you. The fourth day was bedlam. Cirinists were causing riots on every other street, ~~burning~~ breaking into and the jails and GOVERNMENT embassies. The TOGITH government was at a loss for an explanation, but I figured it out soon enough. They were looking for you. ~~I [illegible] figured that's why~~ Half their membership was arrested over two days and and they ~~got [illegible]~~ had managed to determine who that you weren't in TOGITH.

HSANB 17/28 - After all this rarified philosophizing, trying to remind myself WHO this character IS:
"Cerebus can remember when everyone he knew was a farmer, a miller or a soldier [–] when he had never seen a building over one storey. The first time Cerebus saw Tansubal, he was sick for almost a month. All of the people and their horses and the street vendors and the city-guards and the wealthy merchants and women and children. Cerebus felt like he had dropped into a hunter's trap intended to snare human beings."

CEREBUS thought CIRINUM was just a cult -- like those ~~[illegible]~~ secret handshake groups under every carpet in BEDUIN.
Except for the government in ~~[illegible]~~ Felda
I'll let you in on a little secret -- the CIRINISTS are all over the place. Half of this continent has been observing variations on the old CIRINIST rituals since the dawning of the Black Tower Empire. His Holiness can't figure out why he never wins any of his religious crusades against the Southern City States. His problem is that he ~~kept~~ keeps conscripting his forces in the border provinces. One of his ~~[illegible]~~ half-baked advisors has him convinced that they fight better because their homes are at stake in the event of a major war. Every last one of those soldiers has a rabbits foot wrapped in corn husk in his pocket. Last year a whole division ~~the~~ HIS HOLINESS sent to raid the border towns of ~~[illegible]~~ UPPER FELDA defected to CIRIN's side. She effectively doubled her border forces overnight. and dealt ~~of~~ the PONTIFF a blow he'll probably never recover from. The infiltration is even worse. LOWER FELDA's military tribunal is one hundred per cent CIRINIST, even though it's going to take another five generations before they can ~~[illegible]~~ admit it. ESUNOSUPUR. Remember the rebellion a few years back. Everyone thinks it was a family quarrel over the throne. The fact of the matter is that CIRIN was backing STEFAN the ELDER and HIS HOLINESS had picked ASWATH the FREEDER. With STEFAN and his countless cousins firmly under the crown, the CIRINISTS now have a port city and have begun ~~[illegible]~~ arming their members ~~CIRINIST rebels~~ along the trade routes into SERKEA itself.
Why don't they start with the provinces -- send in some pike and heavy cavalry, burn a few villages.
You miss the point. The war is over. As soon as STEFAN ascended to the throne, every division commander in the border provinces swore an oath of loyalty... ~~[illegible]~~ to the mother TERIM. The empire hasn't enough forces to fight the CIRINISTS on two fronts. AMSTRANAT wanted send STEFAN six legions of he asked

HSANB 18/28 - [Po:] "I'll let you in on a little secret – the Cirinists are all over the place. Half of this continent has been observing variations on the old Cirinist rituals since the dawning of The Black Tower Empire. His Holiness can't figure out why he never wins any of his religious crusades against the Southern City States. His problem is that he keeps conscripting his forces [from] the border provinces.

continued...

CEREBUS thought CIRINISM was just a cult -- like those ~~[illegible]~~ secret handshake groups under every carpet in BEDLAM.
Except for the government in ~~[illegible]~~ Upper Felda
I'll let you in on a little secret -- the CIRINISTS are all over the place. Half of this continent has been observing variations on the old CIRINIST rituals since the dawning of the Black Tower Empire. His Holiness can't figure out why he never wins any of his religious crusades against the Southern City States. His problem is that he ~~kept~~ keeps conscripting his forces in the border provinces. One of his ~~[illegible]~~ half-baked advisors has him convinced that they fight better because their homes are at stake in the event of a major war. Every last one of those soldiers has a rabbit's foot wrapped in corn husk in his pocket. Last year a whole division ~~the~~ HIS HOLINESS sent to raid the border towns of ~~LOWER FE~~ UPPER FELDA defected to CIRIN's side. She effectively doubled her border forces overnight and dealt ~~of~~ the PONTIFF a blow he'll probably never recover from. The infiltration is even worse. LOWER FELDA's military tribunal is one hundred per cent CIRINIST, even though its going to take another five generations before they can ~~[illegible]~~ admit it. ESUNOSUPUR. Remember the rebellion a few years back. Everyone thinks it was a family quarrel over the throne. The fact of the matter is that CIRIN was backing STEFAN the ELDER and HIS HOLINESS had picked ASWATH the BLEEDER. With STEFAN and his countless cousins firmly under the crown, the CIRINISTS now have a port city and have begun ~~shipping~~ arming their members ~~CIRINIST rebels~~ along the trade routes into SERKER itself.
Why don't they start with the provinces -- send in some pike and heavy cavalry, burn a few villages.
You miss the point. The war is over. As soon as STEFAN ascended to the throne, every division commander in the border provinces swore an oath of loyalty... ~~[illegible]~~ to the mother TERIM. The empire hasn't enough forces to fight the CIRINISTS on two fronts. ASWATH would send STEFAN six legions if he asked

One of his half-baked advisors has him convinced that they fight better because their homes are at stake in the event of a major war. Every last one of those soldiers has a rabbit's-foot wrapped in corn husk in his pocket. Last year, a whole division His Holiness sent to raid the border towns of Upper Felda defected to Cirin's side. She effectively doubled her border forces overnight and dealt the Pontiff a blow he'll probably never recover from. The infiltration is even worse. Lower Felda's [M]ilitary [T]ribunal is one hundred percent Cirinist, even though its going to take another five generations before they can admit it."

them. The Seprans have't a prayer. Cirin's job now is to take over the capital with the least amount of bloodshed possible Do you think she can do it.

You're still missing the point, it's not whether she can do it. She's done it but now she doesn't the whole empire, with the exception of his Holiness and ~~his~~ ~~agent~~ his finger-puppet collection, knows that the CIRINISTS are in control. Knowing CIRINI, she'll let the old fart live out his days, appoint a successor she'll keep under CIRINIST advisors and just transfer control one government department at a time.

Is there any support for the orthodox TARIMITES at all?

Some ... some. Mostly members of the merchant classes bent on maintaining a balance

CIRINISTS

THEN WHY DON'T THEY MOUNT ONE IMMENSE OFFENSIVE MANEUVER FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE EMPIRE and HAVE DONE WITH IT.

Keeping

CEREBUS FIGURES HE'S SAFE. CEREBUS HAS ALL THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE DOESN'T HE

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

PLUS... SEVENTH SPHERE OF YOURS, GETTING WAYLAID BY THE CIRINISTS IN TOGITH -- THE GOSSIP CEREBUS HEARD WHEN HE WAS IN PARAN. HOW DOES ONE THREATEN WHEN ONE IS AN ILLUSIONIST.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART. YOU RELISHED THE IDEA OF BEING NOTORIOUS. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A TIME WHEN SUENTEUS PO WAS SOMETHING.... THE TOAST OF ESTARCHON SOCIETY, THE DEVIL-MAY-CARE DARLING OF THE UNIVERSITIES, ABSOLUTELY UP-TO-DEEP IN PROFOUND OBSERVATIONS AND UNIQUE INSIGHTS.

singing as a means of binding people closer together. One can look at it as us against them. War chants, army songs, battle hymns or us against the darkness of folk songs, family ballads,

capable of directing their own destinies

Po thinks people are basically [redacted] CEREBUS thinks

HSANB 18-19/28 - [Po, in answer to Cerebus' question regarding the Western Pontiff's opposition to the Cirinism infiltrating Eshnosopur, "Why don't they start with the provinces – send in some heavy pike and heavy cavalry, burn a few villages?"]

"You miss the point. The war is over. As soon as Stefan [the Elder] ascended to the throne, every division commander in the border provinces swore an oath of loyalty to the Mother Terim. The [Sepran E]mpire hasn't enough forces to fight the Cirinists on two fronts. Amstanat would send Stefan six legions if he asked them. The Seprans haven't a prayer. *continued...*

them. The Sopranos haven't a prayer. Cirin's job now is to take over the capital with the least amount of bloodshed possible.
Do you think she can do it.
You're still missing the point, it's not whether she can do it. She's done it. The whole empire, with the exception of his Holiness and his finger-puppet collection, knows that the CIRINISTS are in control. Knowing CIRIN, she'd let the old fart live out his days, appoint a successor she'll bring under CIRINIST advisors and just transfer control one government department at a time.
Is there any support for the orthodox TARIMITES at all?
Some ... some. Mostly members of the merchant classes bent on maintaining a balance

THEN WHY DON'T THE CIRINISTS MOUNT ONE IMMENSE OFFENSIVE MANEUVER FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE EMPIRE and HAVE DONE WITH IT.
Keeping
CEREBUS FIGURES HE'S SAFE. CEREBUS HAS ALL THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE DOESN'T HE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
PLUS... SEVENTH SPHERE OF YOURS, GETTING WAYLAID BY THE CIRINISTS IN TOGITH -- THE GOSSIP CEREBUS HEARD WHEN HE WAS IN PARAN.
HOW DOES ONE THREATEN WHEN ONE IS AN ILLUSIONIST.
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART. YOU REVELLED THE IDEA OF BEING NOTORIOUS. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A TIME WHEN SUENTEUS PO WAS SOMETHING.... THE TOAST OF ESTARLION SOCIETY, THE DEVIL-MAY-CARE DARLING OF THE UNIVERSITIES, ABSOLUTELY UP-TO-DEEP IN PROFOUND OBSERVATIONS AND UNIQUE INSIGHTS.
singing as a means of binding people closer together. One can look at it as us against them. War chants, army songs, battle hymns or us against the darkness of folk songs, family ballads,
capable of directing their own destinies
PO thinks people are basically CEREBUS hunters

Cirin's job now is to take over the capital with the least amount of bloodshed possible."

"Do you think she can do it?"

"You're still missing the point, it's not whether she can do it. She's done it. The whole [E]mpire, with the exception of His Holiness and his finger-puppet collection knows that the Cirinists are in control. Knowing Cirin, she'd let the old fart live out his days [and] appoint a successor she'll bring [in] under Cirinist advisors and just transfer control one government department at a time."

"CHUCK" c/o THE ALL NIGHT SHOW
545 LAKESHORE BLVD. WEST
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M5V 1A3

think people are basically out for themselves and will run over anyone to get what they want.

PD: You think you're so smart.

Well CEREBUS wants to know something. When the people are all taking care of themselves, what about all the [redacted] types who have never had to defend themselves and their possessions. Who

let them run their own lives

CEREBUS: Sure -- turn everything over to the people -- you're all for that, aren't you? [redacted] with more than two rounds hidden in their sock drawer -- you might as well declare open season on them. Every freelance coward that's out of work because of all of this... this... [redacted] paper shuffling in your [redacted] would clean out this city to the coathooks inside of two days.

PD: [redacted] Need police
Yeah.
Who pays them
Government
Of course

GET HOWARD TO DO COVER TO SWORDS VOLUME FOUR
JAN. 1982

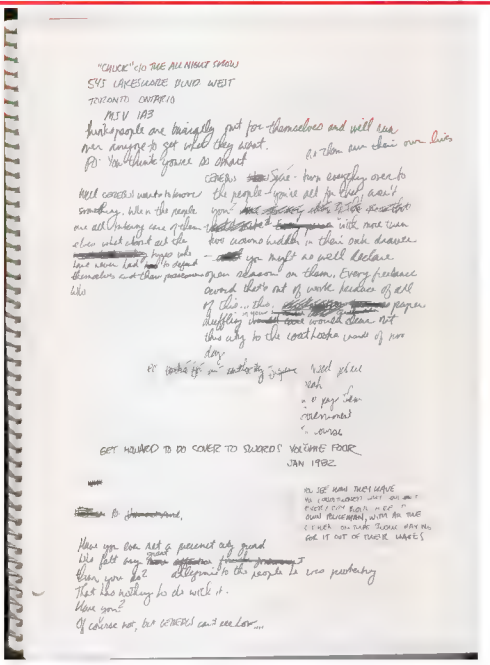
YOU SEE HOW THEY HAVE YOU CONDITIONED WHY SHOULDN'T EVERY CITY BLOCK HIRE ITS OWN POLICEMAN, WITH ALL THE CITIZENS ON THAT BLOCK PAYING FOR IT OUT OF THEIR WAGES

[redacted] PD: [redacted],

Have you ever met a precinct city guard.
Who felt any great affection for the [redacted]
How you do? allegiance to the people he was protecting
That has nothing to do with it.
Have you?
Of course not, but CEREBUS can't see how....

HSANB 20/28 - [re: Illusionism's policy of returning autonomy to The People]

continued...



[CEREBUS:] "Sure – turn everything over to The People – let them run their own lives. You're all for that, aren't you? Well, Cerebus wants to know something. When [T]he [P]eople are all taking care of themselves, what about all the types [–] who have never had to defend themselves and their possessions [–] with more than two crowns hidden in their sock drawer[?] You might as well declare open season on them. Every freelance sword that's out of work because of all this…this…paper-shuffling in your world [,] would clear out this city to the coat hooks inside of two days.

[PO: So, you] need police.

[CEREBUS:] Yeah.

[PO:] Who pays them?

[CEREBUS:] The government, of course.

[PO:] You see how they have you conditioned [?] Why couldn't every city block hire its own policemen, with all the citizens on that block paying for it out of their wages?

[CEREBUS:] Have you ever met a precinct city guard who felt any great[er] allegiance to the people he was protecting than you do?

[PO:] That has nothing to do with it.

[CEREBUS:] Have you?

[At this point, I lost track of who was holding down which side of the argument:]

Of course not, but Cerebus can't see how…

They're loyal to whomever pays them.

It's because they get paid by the government. But, if you eliminate the government and instead of giving them half your income to protect the whole damn city, pay two or three hand-picked men.

[reworking the thought;] They're loyal to whomever pays them. How else could they feel? If the people paid them directly, it would make them feel more like contributing members of their society. As it is they tend to be the ugliest part of government – an available goon squad for driving the sheep where the shepherds want them to go.

Will you listen to yourself? It's all indoctrination.

What is?

The way you talk – all this – this law and order mythology.

Mythology?

There's absolutely no reason that a neighbourhood or a block of apartments couldn't hire their own guards.

Their own guards – permanent guards? Do you know what that would cost?

The average tax right now paid by the average citizen in the Southern City States is about four gold crowns a year. If everyone in an apartment building paid even one crown for protection to their own bought-and-paid-for security men, the average city block would have eight guards patrolling it night and day.

Sure, great. [Y]ou wouldn't be able to.

At that point I would "come to" and realize that was all way too intricate and non-entertaining to even imagine I could use any of it.

They're loyal to whomever pays them
It's because they get paid by the government. But if you eliminate the government and instead of giving them half your income to protect the whole damn city, ~~you~~ pay two or three hand-picked men
How else could they feel.
They're loyal to whomever pays them. If the people paid them directly, it would make them feel more like contributing members of their society. As it is they tend to be the ugliest part of government -- an available goon squad for ~~hire~~ driving the sheep where the shepherds want them to go. ~~Right now the average city guard is expected to~~ ~~keep~~ ~~over a~~ ~~quota of citizens particularly in the poorer~~ ~~neighborhoods for minor infractions; drunk and disorderliness, curfew violations, operating business without~~ ~~a license.~~

Well you listen to yourself? It's all indoctrination
What?
The way you talk -- all this -- this law and order
mythology
Mythology?
There's absolutely no reason that a neighborhood, or ~~an apartment~~ a block of apartments couldn't hire their own guards
Their own guards - permanent guards? Do you know what that would cost?
~~About one fifth of what the average citizen pays~~
The average tax right now paid by the average citizen in the Southern City States is about ~~ten~~ four gold crowns a year. If everyone in an apartment building paid even one crown for protection to their own ~~employed~~ bought and paid for security men, the average city block would have eight guards patrolling it night and day
Sure great, you wouldn't be able to

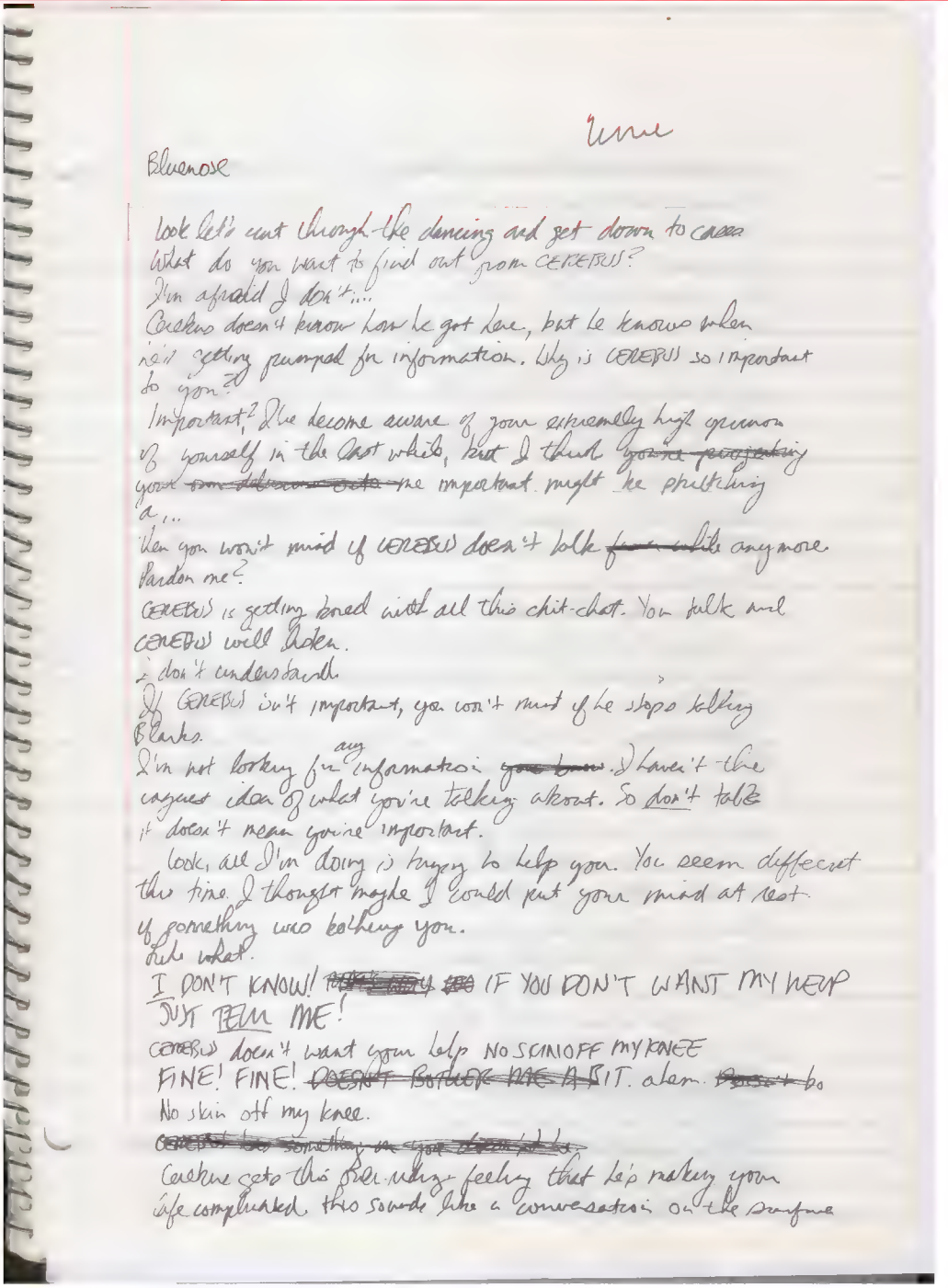
HSANB 21/28 - An entire page of "banter" unrelated to imparting information, trying to steer back in the direction of writing a comic book instead of an Illusionism 101 text.

Bluenose

Look let's cut through the dancing and get down to cases
What do you want to find out from CEREBUS?
I'm afraid I don't....
Cashew doesn't know how he got here, but he knows when
he's getting prumped for information. Why is CEREBUS so important
to you?
Important? I've become aware of your extremely high opinion
of yourself in the last while, but I think ~~you're projecting~~
~~your own delusions onto~~ me important might be stretching
a,...
Then you won't mind if CEREBUS doesn't talk ~~to me~~ like anymore
Pardon me?
CEREBUS is getting bored with all this chit-chat. You talk and
CEREBUS will listen.
I don't understand.
If CEREBUS isn't important, you won't mind if he stops talking.
Blanks.
I'm not looking for any information ~~you have~~. I have no the
vaguest idea of what you're talking about. So don't talk
it doesn't mean you're important.
Look, all I'm doing is trying to help you. You seem different
this time. I thought maybe I could put your mind at rest
if something was bothering you.
Like what.
I DON'T KNOW! ~~THAT'S WHY~~ IF YOU DON'T WANT MY HELP
JUST TELL ME!
CEREBUS doesn't want your help NO SKIN OFF MY KNEE
FINE! FINE! ~~DOESN'T BOTHER ME A BIT~~. alem. ~~Doesn't be~~
No skin off my knee.
~~CEREBUS has something on your mind and~~
Cashew gets this fleeting feeling that he's making your
life complicated. This sounds like a conversation on the bonfire

HSANB 22/28 - getting back closer to an entertaining tone here on the second "banter" page:

continued...



Tune

Bluenose

Look let's cut through the dancing and get down to cases
What do you want to find out from CEREBUS?
I'm afraid I don't...
Cerebus doesn't know how he got here, but he knows when
he's getting pumped for information. Why is CEREBUS so important
to you?
Important? She become aware of your extremely high opinion
of yourself in the last while, but I think ~~you're projecting~~
your ~~obsession with~~ me important might be stretching
a...
Then you won't mind if CEREBUS doesn't talk ~~to you while~~ anymore
Pardon me?
CEREBUS is getting bored with all this chit-chat. You talk and
CEREBUS will listen.
I don't understand.
If CEREBUS isn't important, you won't mind if he stops talking
Blanks.
I'm not looking for any information. I haven't the
vaguest idea of what you're talking about. So don't take
it doesn't mean you're important.
Look, all I'm doing is trying to help you. You seem different
this time. I thought maybe I could put your mind at rest
if something was bothering you.
Talk what?
I DON'T KNOW! ~~THAT'S WHAT YOU~~ IF YOU DON'T WANT MY HELP
JUST TELL ME!
CEREBUS doesn't want your help NO SKIN OFF MY KNEE
FINE! FINE! ~~DOESN'T BOTHER ME A BIT~~. alam. ~~Doesn't be~~
No skin off my knee.
~~CEREBUS has something on your mind but~~
Cerebus gets this feeling that he's making your
life complicated. this sounds like a conversation on the surface

[PO:] You sound like a lot of people after they leave Palnu. Conspiracies everywhere. Nothing taken at face value.

[CEREBUS:] Oh, Cerebus didn't say he wasn't taking anything at face value. He just isn't taking you at face value.

[PO:] Let's have it your way. What am I hiding?

[CEREBUS:] You want Cerebus to guess.

[PO:] All I was saying was...

[CEREBUS:] That's not a bad idea. Does it have to do with Lord Julius?

[PO:] Lord Julius? Why would...

[CEREBUS:] Is it bigger than a bread box?

[PO:] I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING!

~~If that is really more like~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~keep on~~
that it's not nearly as casual as you're trying to make it
seem. You want something from CEREBUS
I'm afraid you've lost me this time
That's understandable, CEREBUS isn't too familiar with the
territory himself. You've been approaching CEREBUS from
oblique angles hunting around at what you're looking for.
You have a fantastic imagination. If I wanted information
I'd just ask you for it.
Not if you were trying to hide something
~~I~~ I return the question; "Like what"
CEREBUS doesn't know. ~~You're~~ ~~I don't either means~~
~~CEREBUS~~ which either means CEREBUS is ~~not~~ making all
this up...
Seems to point that way
...as you'd sincerely like him to believe. Or you're
angles ~~are~~ are still too oblique. Cerebus accepts the latter.
at approach
~~I have to give~~ You sound like a lot of people after they leave
PALACE -- conspiracies everywhere. Nothing taken at face value.
Oh, CEREBUS didn't say he wasn't taking anything at face
value. He just isn't taking you at face value
Let's have it your way. What am I hiding?
You want CEREBUS to guess
All I was saying was...
That's not a bad idea. Does it have to do with LORD JULIUS
Lord Julius? Why would...
Is it bigger than a breadbox?
I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING!
~~Why do you feel about CEREBUS~~
Lies!
Panic - You remember, you were accused of stealing from a
child once.
~~It's~~ Everyone's legs all pretty much the same

HSANB 23/28 - Getting closer still as they discuss Cerebus' relationship with Lord Julius:

continued...

PO: ~~How important do you want to be.~~
~~important to CHRIST!~~
~~important to [illegible]~~
~~I told you we don't need to say that word~~
~~really~~ Blokes I did ~~that~~ your feelings.
~~No.~~

PO You really want to be important, don't you?
C: What?
I All this talk about being "important." You were the kitchen staff supervisor in Palma. That's ~~pretty~~ about as important as you can get -- on this continent anyway.
That was just a job. Cerebus...
Just a job? That's like calling the WYNDMOR DIAMOND just a rock. Influence is everything in Palma and influence with Lord Julius is the only influence that matters.
Influence. Lord Julius gave CEREBUS the job because he saved LORD SILVERSPOON from ~~some~~ danger.
~~He told me that I should go~~, You had his ear though. It's no secret that you met with him almost every day ~~for the last month~~ while you were in his cabinet.
So what?
So what? Lord Julius doesn't see anyone every day. The king of T'CAPRA spent half of his reign in the government guest house ~~of~~ adjoining the TRADE BUILDING waiting for an invitation to dinner.
Cerebus was Lord Julius' bodyguard. He was told to stop the "Eye in the Pyramid" so he keep around until they were stopped.
I believe you, ~~but~~ thousands drowned.
What is ~~that~~ supposed to mean?
You show up in Palma, you get placed in the top cabinet position in the wealthiest city state in Estarcion. You're given the run of the place, daily conferences with Lord Julius behind closed doors and off the record and then go on your merry way, turning up in TEST as RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE

[PO:] You had his ear, though. It's no secret that you met with him almost every day while you were in his Cabinet.

[CEREBUS:] So what?

[PO:] So what? Lord Julius doesn't meet anyone every day. The King of T'Capra spent half his reign in the government guest house adjoining the Trade Building waiting for an invitation to dinner.

continued...

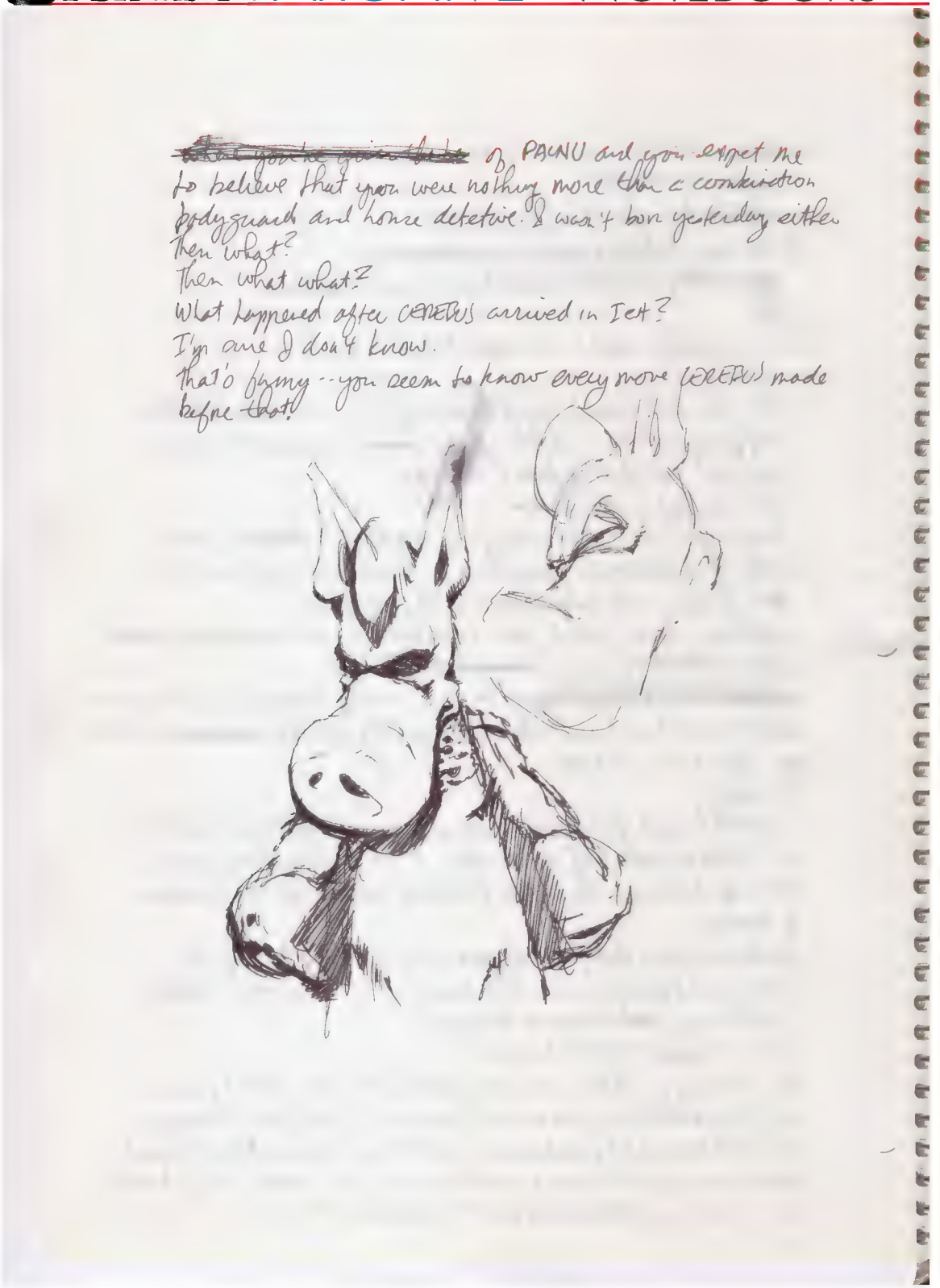
PO: ~~How important do you want to be.~~
~~important it CREATES!~~
~~important to [illegible] the Illustrious~~
~~I told you but don't need to explain myself~~
~~Well~~ ~~really~~ ~~Stopped~~ I didn't want your feelings
etc.
PO You really want to be important, don't you?
C: What?
I All this talk about being "important." You were the kitchen staff supervisor in Palnu. That's ~~pretty~~ about as important as you can get -- on this continent anyway
That was just a job. Cerebus...
Just a job? That's like calling the WYNDMOR DIAMOND just a rock. Influence is everything in Palnu and influence with Lord Julius is the only influence that matters.
Influence. Lord Julius gave CEREBUS the job because he saved LORD SILVERSPOON from ~~some trouble~~ danger
~~He not that I thanked you~~, You had his ear though. It's no secret that you met with him almost every day ~~for the last month~~ while you were in his cabinet.
So what?
So what? Lord Julius doesn't see anyone every day. The king of T'CAPPA spent half of his reign in the government guest house ~~of~~ adjoining the TRADE BUILDING waiting for an invitation to dinner.
Cerebus was Lord Julius' bodyguard. He was told to stop the "Eye in the Pyramid" so he hung around until they were stopped.
I believe you, ~~but~~ thousands wouldn't.
What is that supposed to mean?
You show up in Palnu, you get placed in the top cabinet position in the wealthiest city state in Estarcion. You're given the run of the place, daily conferences with Lord Julius behind closed doors and off the record and then you go on your merry way, turning up in lest as RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE

[CEREBUS:] Cerebus was Lord Julius' bodyguard. He was told to stop the "Eye in the Pyramid" so he hung around until they were stopped.

[PO:] I believe you, thousands wouldn't.

[CEREBUS:] What is that supposed to mean?

[PO:] You show up in Palnu, you get placed in the top Cabinet position in the wealthiest City-State in Estarcion. You're given the run of the place, daily conferences with Lord Julius behind closed doors and off the record and then you go on your merry way turning up in lest as Ranking Diplomatic Representative.


[redacted] PAUNU and you expect me
to believe that you were nothing more than a combination
bodyguard and house detective. I wasn't born yesterday either.
Then what?
Then what what?
What happened after CEREBUS arrived in Iest?
I'm sure I don't know.
That's funny -- you seem to know every move CEREBUS made
before that!

HSANB 24/28 - Hey. Remember DRAWING? a couple of quick sketches to remind myself this wasn't "Post-Graduate Studies of Estarcion Poli-Sci."

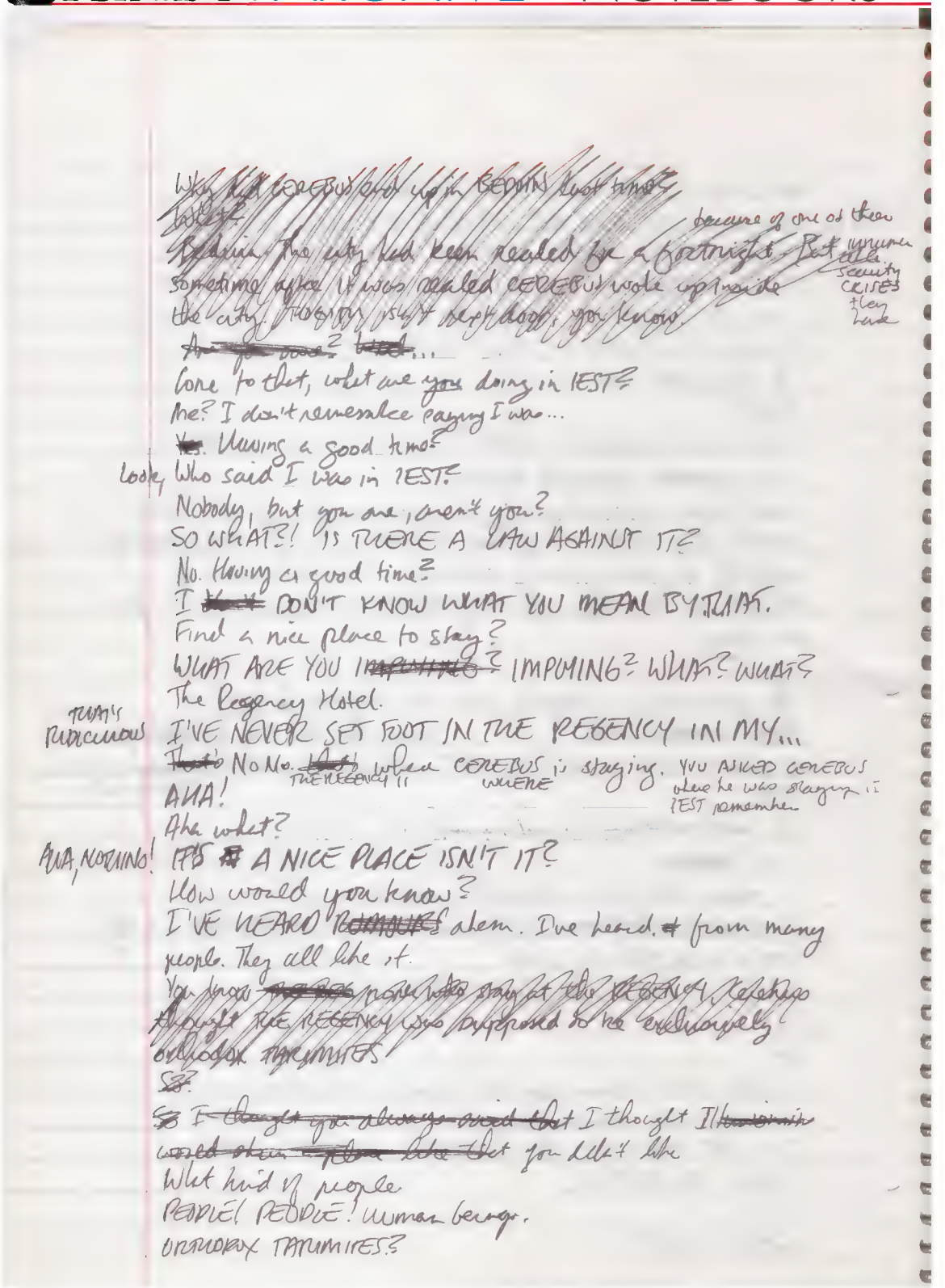
LORD JULIUS IS JOHNSON'S HOUSE ADMINISTRATOR
#14 ASSHOLE DID NOT HAVE THE WHOLE STORY: LORD J. NOW HAS REIGN OF POWER AFTER KENNEDY AND JOHNSTON BOTH BIT IT. ~~WE KNE~~ THE MOMENT JOHNSON BIT IT, WE SENT A MESSAGE TO EVERY PRAETER FAMILIAS IN THE CITY OFFERING TO DOUBLE HIS TAKE-HOME PAY.
So where does LORD JULIUS fit into all this?
What?
You haven't mentioned PALNU. Is LORD Julius a CIRINIST or an ~~ORTHODOX~~ ORTHODOX TARIMITE.
LORD Julius is a bureaucrat. All bureaucrats are ORTHODOX TARIMITES whether they want to be or not. It's the only political reality if you're facing election. "Pound the book of TARIM and tell them you've followed it since before you were born."

My information is almost a week old whenever I get it.
~~Hmm. CEREBUS~~ mm. since the last time I heard from my people in that city
You must have arrived in IEST ~~in the last week, I guess~~
mm.
So ~~what have you been doing with~~ how's it going?
Fine. ~~Fucking~~ fine.
I mean, IEST. It's a beautiful city isn't it?
~~Can't say I would know.~~ Walls and towers. It's definitely a city.
Find a nice place to stay?
A bed and a roof. You can't do better than that.
So.
So.
Is there some reason you don't want to talk about IEST?
Is there some reason you do?
I'M JUST TRYING TO BE FRIENDLY, FOR SET'S SAKE.
HOW'S IT GOING?!
Fine.
GOOD! GREAT!

HSANB 25/28 - [CEREBUS:] You haven't mentioned Palnu. Is Lord Julius a Cirinist or an Orthodox Tarimite?

[PO:] Lord Julius is a bureaucrat. All bureaucrats are Orthodox Tarimites whether they want to be or not. It's the only political reality if you're facing election."Pound the Book of Tarim and tell them you've followed it since before you were born."

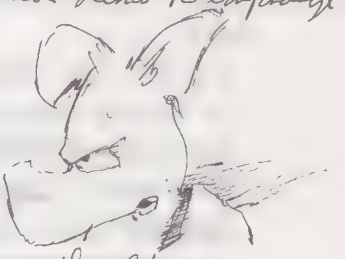
Didn't really apply to Lord Julius, but I should have used it somewhere in discussing politicians in general.


Who was CEREBUS after when BEGINS last time?
last?
Iskibar. The city had been sealed for a fortnight. But
because of one of them
unsure of
security
cruises
they have
sometime after it was sealed CEREBUS woke up inside
the city. Thought it might be off days, you know.
Come to that, what are you doing in TEST?
Me? I don't remember saying I was...
Having a good time?
Look, Who said I was in TEST?
Nobody, but you are, aren't you?
SO WHAT?! IS THERE A LAW AGAINST IT?
No. Having a good time?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT.
Find a nice place to stay?
WHAT ARE YOU IMPUNING? IMPUNING? WHAT? WHAT?
The Regency Hotel.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS
I'VE NEVER SET FOOT IN THE REGENCY IN MY...
No No. THE REGENCY is where CEREBUS is staying. YOU ASKED CEREBUS where he was staying in TEST remember
AHA!
Aha what?
AHA, NOTHING!
IT'S A NICE PLACE ISN'T IT?
How would you know?
I'VE HEARD them. I've heard from many
people. They all like it.
You know
though the REGENCY was supposed to be exclusively
orthodox TARUMITES
So?
I thought
you like
What kind of people
PEOPLE! PEOPLE! Human beings.
ORTHODOX TARUMITES?

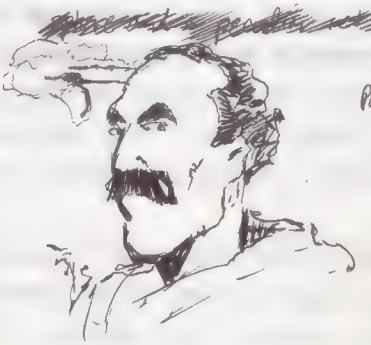
HSANB 26/28 - Finally getting some usable dialogue written.

How does Cerebus know that you didn't move him... or have him moved... to REDUM yourself?
I was nowhere near

PAGE ONE: Cerebus wakes up and PD is there "welcome back to the seventh sphere"
PAGE TWO natha loopy last trip was his last trip.
Unusual most people when they get here just want to keep coming back... odd that you're here at all
Did you build the place
It exists as the medium of dreams an area of consciousness in everyone's brain. Perhaps you have a natural affinity for it. Anyway I've never known anyone who just sort of stumbled into it like a hole in the road
Cerebus doesn't want to get personal, but what is there that attracts you here? Only two people in here at once it allows for extended conversation. Seems to emphasize human need to communicate.
Maybe you talk a lot
Lots another way of putting.
Exchange ideas and theories
~~like parents~~



PAGE THREE
~~ILLUSIONISTS ONLY~~ ~~EIRINISTS what are they like.~~
~~NEANDERTHALITES You've got the seventh~~



PD CEREBUS: CHURCH OF THE LIVING FARTH RUNS TOO WIDE SIDE. ASIDE FROM INDULGING YOURSELF IN A LITTLE IDIOTIC VANDALISM CHURCH OF FARTH IS ACCOMODATED BUT IT IS WATCHING WHAT ONE WOULD CALL A MOTIVATING FORCE. DO YOU

HSANB 27/28 - Trying to find the right way to lead into a discussion of the Eighth Sphere but still too complicated. Little sketches of Lord Julius with a boy scout salute and Cerebus as I mull it over.

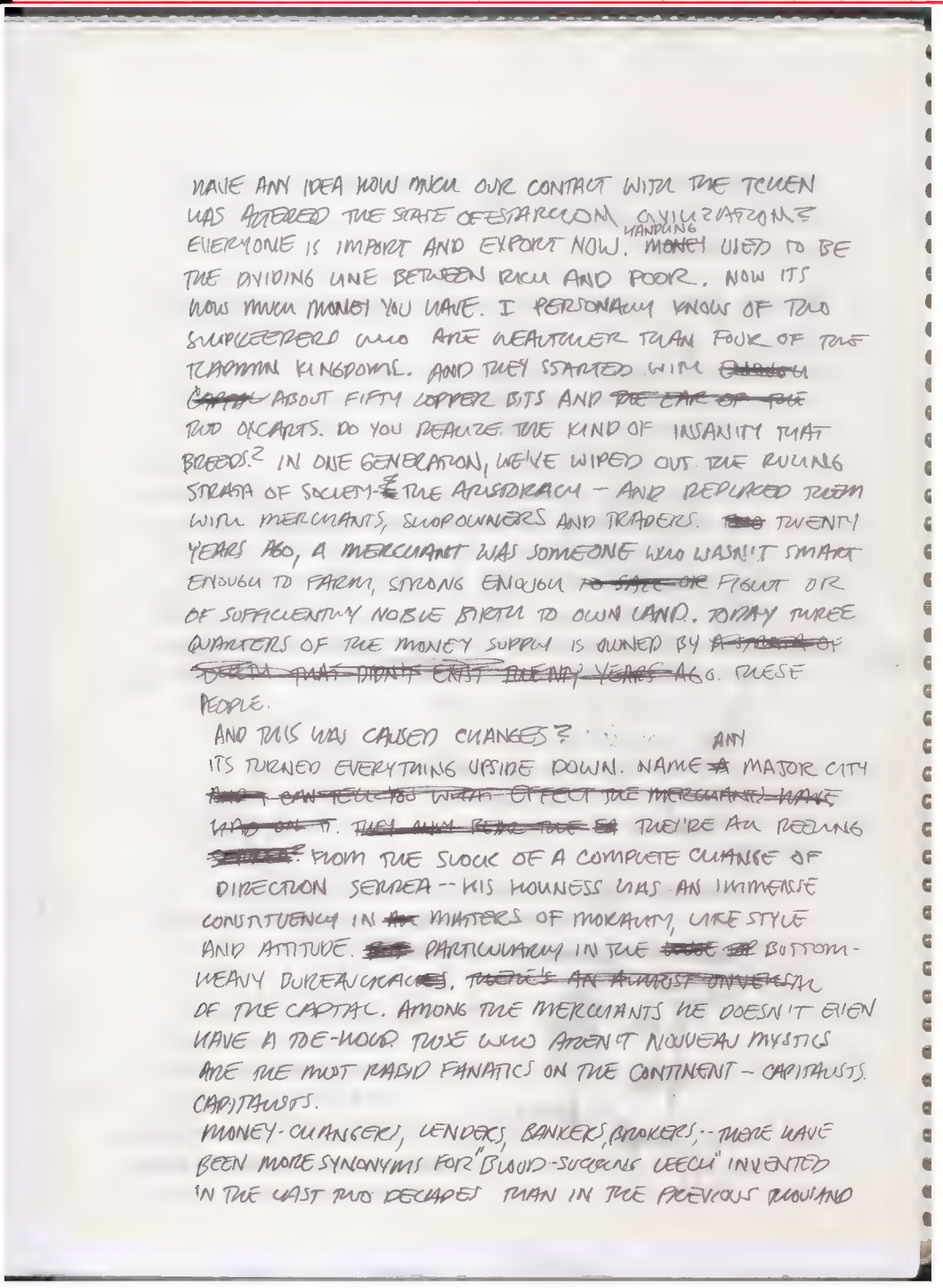
HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH OUR CONTACT WITH THE TOWN WAS ALTERED THE STATE OF ESTABLISHMENT CIVILIZATIONS EVERYONE IS IMPORT AND EXPORT NOW. HANDLING MONEY USED TO BE THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN RICH AND POOR. NOW ITS HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE. I PERSONALLY KNOW OF TWO SHOPKEEPERS WHO ARE WEALTHIER THAN FOUR OF THE TRADITIONAL KINGDOMS. AND THEY STARTED WITH ~~ENOUGH CAPITAL~~ ABOUT FIFTY COPPER BITS AND ~~THE EAR OF THE~~ TWO OXCARTS. DO YOU REALIZE THE KIND OF INSANITY THAT BREEDS? IN ONE GENERATION, WE'VE WIPED OUT THE RULING STRATA OF SOCIETY - THE ARISTOCRACY - AND REPLACED THEM WITH MERCHANTS, SHOPOWNERS AND TRADERS. ~~THEY~~ TWENTY YEARS AGO, A MERCHANT WAS SOMEONE WHO WASN'T SMART ENOUGH TO FARM, STRONG ENOUGH ~~TO STAY OUT~~ FIGHT OR OF SUFFICIENTLY NOBLE BIRTH TO OWN LAND. TODAY THREE QUARTERS OF THE MONEY SUPPLY IS OWNED BY ~~A STRATA OF SOCIETY THAT DIDN'T EXIST TWENTY YEARS AGO~~. THESE PEOPLE.

AND THIS WAS CAUSED CHANGES? ANY ITS TURNED EVERYTHING UPSIDE DOWN. NAME ~~A~~ MAJOR CITY ~~AND I CAN TELL YOU WHAT EFFECT THE MERCHANTS HAVE HAD ON IT. THEY ALL FEAR THE~~ THEY'RE ALL REELING ~~SEIGE~~ FROM THE SHOCK OF A COMPLETE CHANGE OF DIRECTION SERVED -- HIS HIGHNESS HAS AN IMMENSE CONSTITUENCY IN ~~THE~~ MASTERS OF MORALITY, LIKE STYLE AND ATTITUDE. ~~THE~~ PARTICULARLY IN THE ~~MIDDLE~~ BOTTOM-HEAVY BUREAUCRACIES. ~~THERE'S AN ALMOST UNIVERSAL~~ OF THE CAPITAL. AMONG THE MERCHANTS HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A TOE-HOLD. THOSE WHO AREN'T NOUVEAU MYSTICS ARE THE MOST RABID FANATICS ON THE CONTINENT - CAPITALISTS. CAPITALISTS.

MONEY-CHANGERS, LENDERS, BANKERS, BROKERS, -- THERE HAVE BEEN MORE SYNONYMS FOR "BLOOD-SUCKING LEECH" INVENTED IN THE LAST TWO DECADES THAN IN THE PREVIOUS THOUSAND

HSANB 28-29/28 - Really having a hard job keeping my mind focussed on entertainment I jump right into a lengthy detour on how the emergence of a Merchant Class that had previously been based on heredity would look to someone experiencing it with no precedent to go by:

continued...



HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH OUR CONTACT WITH THE TOWN HAS ALTERED THE STATE OF ESTABLISHED CIVILIZATION? EVERYONE IS IMPORT AND EXPORT NOW. HANDLING MONEY USED TO BE THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN RICH AND POOR. NOW IT'S HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE. I PERSONALLY KNOW OF TWO SHOPKEEPERS WHO ARE WEALTHIER THAN FOUR OF THE TRADITIONAL KINGDOMS. AND THEY STARTED WITH ~~ENOUGH CAPITAL~~ ABOUT FIFTY COPPER BITS AND ~~THE CART OF THE~~ TWO OXCARTS. DO YOU REALIZE THE KIND OF INSANITY THAT BREEDS? IN ONE GENERATION, WE'VE WIPED OUT THE RULING STRATA OF SOCIETY - THE ARISTOCRACY - AND REPLACED THEM WITH MERCHANTS, SHOPOWNERS AND TRADERS. ~~THE~~ TWENTY YEARS AGO, A MERCHANT WAS SOMEONE WHO WASN'T SMART ENOUGH TO FARM, STRONG ENOUGH ~~TO FIGHT OR~~ FIGHT OR OF SUFFICIENTLY NOBLE BIRTH TO OWN LAND. TODAY THREE QUARTERS OF THE MONEY SUPPLY IS OWNED BY ~~A FEW OF THESE~~ ~~PEOPLE THAT DIDN'T EXIST FIVE MANY YEARS AGO~~. THESE PEOPLE.

AND THIS HAS CAUSED CHANGES? ANY

ITS TURNED EVERYTHING UPSIDE DOWN. NAME ~~A~~ MAJOR CITY ~~AND I CAN TELL YOU WHAT EFFECT THE MERCHANTS HAVE HAD ON IT. THEY ALL BEAR THE SAME~~ THEY'RE ALL REELING ~~FROM~~ FROM THE SHOCK OF A COMPLETE CHANGE OF DIRECTION SERREA -- HIS HOLINESS HAS AN IMMENSE CONSTITUENCY IN ~~THE~~ MATTERS OF MORALITY, LIFE STYLE AND ATTITUDE. ~~THE~~ PARTICULARLY IN THE ~~BOTTOM~~ BOTTOM-HEAVY BUREAUCRACIES, ~~THERE'S AN ALMOST UNIVERSAL~~ OF THE CAPITAL. AMONG THE MERCHANTS HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A TOE-HOLD. THOSE WHO AREN'T NOUVEAU MYSTICS ARE THE MOST RABID FANATICS ON THE CONTINENT - CAPITALISTS. CAPITALISTS.

MONEY-CHANGERS, LENDERS, BANKERS, BROKERS, -- THERE HAVE BEEN MORE SYNONYMS FOR "BLOOD-SUCKING LEECH" INVENTED IN THE LAST TWO DECADES THAN IN THE PREVIOUS THOUSAND

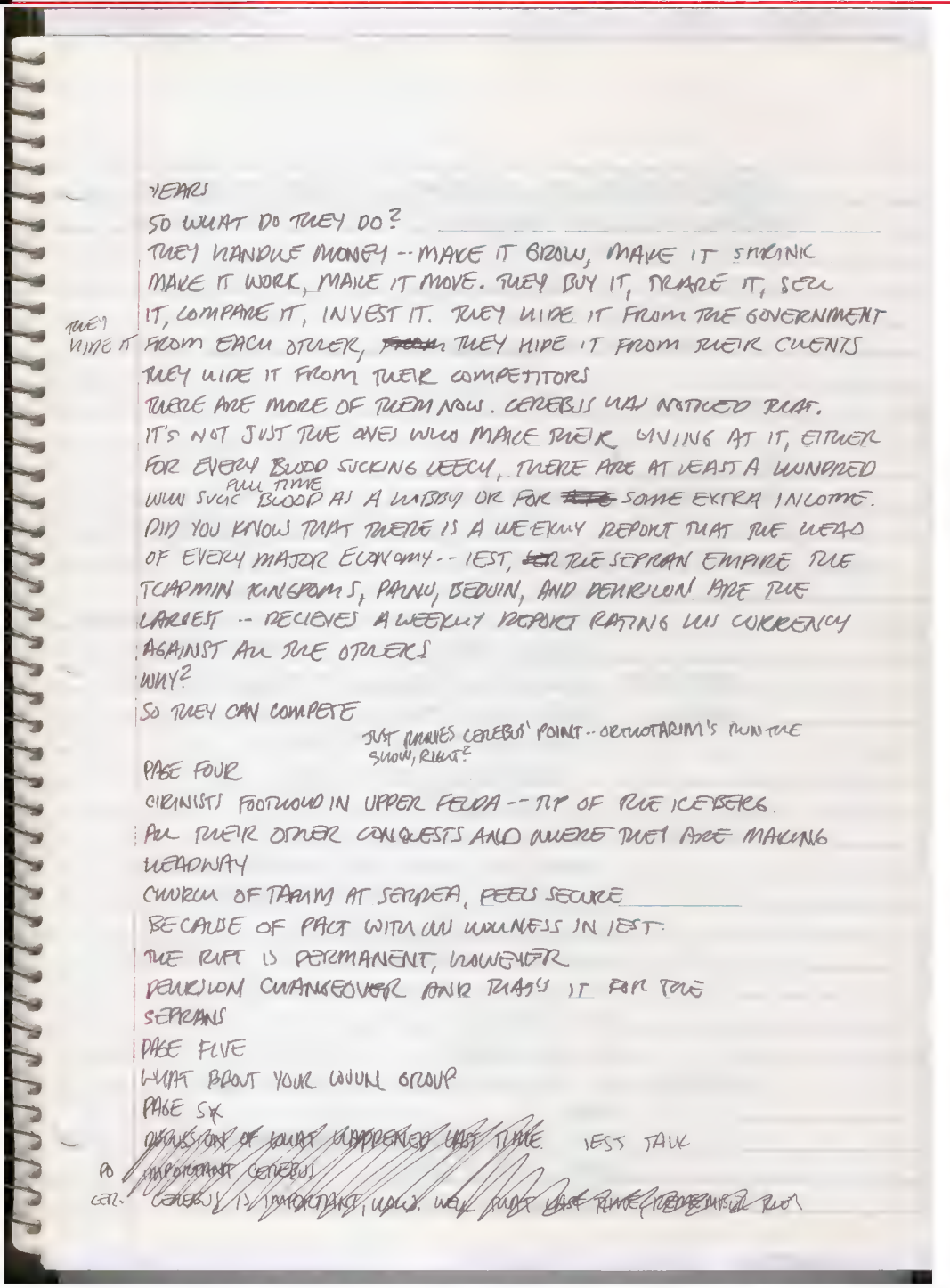
"Everyone is import and export now. Handling money used to be the dividing line between rich and poor. Now it's how much money you have. I [,] personally [,] know of two shopkeepers who are wealthier than four of the T'Capmin Kingdoms. And they started with about fifty copper bits and two oxcarts. Do you realize the kind of insanity that breeds? In one generation, we've wiped out the ruling strata of society – the Aristocracy – and replaced them with merchants, shop-owners and traders. Twenty years ago, a merchant was someone who wasn't smart enough to farm, strong enough to fight or of sufficiently noble birth to own land. Today, three quarters of the money supply is owned by these people."

"And this caused changes?"

"It's turned everything upside down. Name any major city [–] they're all reeling from the shock of a complete change of direction. Serrea – His Holiness has an immense constituency in matters of morality, lifestyle and attitude. Particularly in the bottom-heavy bureaucracy of the capitol. Among the merchants he doesn't even have a toe-hold. Those who aren't nouveau mystics are the most rabid fanatics on the continent – capitalists."

"Capitalists."

continued...


YEARS
SO WHAT DO THEY DO?
THEY HANDLE MONEY -- MAKE IT GROW, MAKE IT SHRINK
MAKE IT WORK, MAKE IT MOVE. THEY BUY IT, TRADE IT, SELL
IT, COMPARE IT, INVEST IT. THEY HIDE IT FROM THE GOVERNMENT
THEY HIDE IT
FROM EACH OTHER, THEY HIDE IT FROM THEIR CLIENTS
THEY HIDE IT FROM THEIR COMPETITORS
THERE ARE MORE OF THEM NOW. CEREBUS HAS NOTICED THAT.
IT'S NOT JUST THE ONES WHO MAKE THEIR LIVING AT IT, EITHER
FOR EVERY BLOOD SUCKING LEECH, THERE ARE AT LEAST A HUNDRED
WHO SUCK FULL TIME BLOOD AS A HOBBY OR FOR SOME EXTRA INCOME.
DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS A WEEKLY REPORT THAT THE HEAD
OF EVERY MAJOR ECONOMY -- LEST, THE SEPRAN EMPIRE THE
T'CAPMIN KINGDOMS, PALNU, BEDUIN, AND DEHRSION ARE THE
LARGEST -- RECIEVES A WEEKLY REPORT RATING HIS CURRENCY
AGAINST ALL THE OTHERS
WHY?
SO THEY CAN COMPETE
JUST MAKES CEREBUS' POINT -- ORTHOTARIM'S RUN THE SHOW, RIGHT?
PAGE FOUR
CIRINISTS FOOTHOLD IN UPPER FELDA -- TIP OF THE ICEBERG.
ALL THEIR OTHER CONQUESTS AND WHERE THEY ARE MAKING
HEADWAY
CHURCH OF TARIM AT SEPHREA, FEELS SECURE
BECAUSE OF PACT WITH UN WOMAN IN LEST.
THE RIFT IS PERMANENT, HOWEVER
DEHRSION CHANGEOVER AND TRASH IT FOR THE
SEPRANS
PAGE FIVE
WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN GROUP
PAGE SIX
DISCUSSION OF EVENTS HAPPENING LAST TIME. LEST TALK
TO IMPORTANT CEREBUS
CEREBUS IS IMPORTANT, HOW. WELL JUDGE LAST TIME CEREBUS

"Money-changers, lenders, bankers, brokers – there have been more synonyms for 'blood-sucking leech' invented in the last two decades than in the previous thousand years.'

"So what do they do?"

"They handle money – make it grow, make it shrink, make it work, make it move. They buy it, trade it, sell it, compare it, invest it. They hide it from the government, they hide it from each other, they hide it from their clients, they hide it from their competitors."

"There are more of them now. Cerebus has noticed that."

'It's not just the ones who make their living at it, either. For every full time blood-sucking leech, there are at least a hundred who suck blood as a hobby or for some extra income. Did you know that there's a weekly report that the head of every major economy – lest, the Sepran Empire, the T'Capmin Kingdoms, Palnu, Beduin, Dehrsion are the largest – receives rating his currency against all the others."

"Why?"

"So they can compete."

~~THOUGHT YOU WERE THE FULFILLMENT OF THEIR PROPHECIES~~
~~BUT MAYB WOULD THE CIVILISTS KNOW ABOUT THAT SO SOON~~
~~IT WAS JUST AN IDEA~~

SEVEN I just get this feeling you might be in trouble
and I'd like to help
TWEEN are money freaks

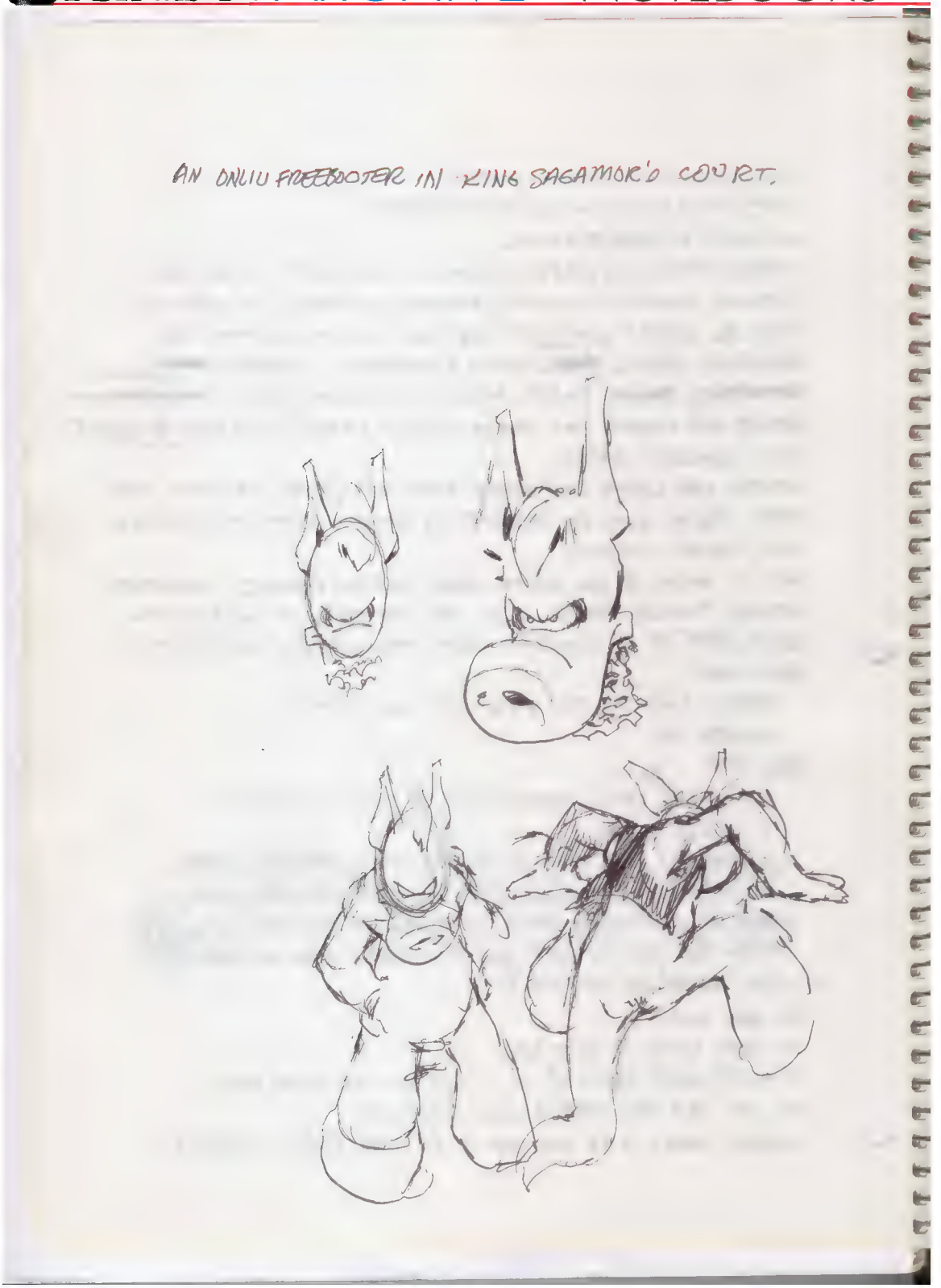
~~Illuminatio~~ are all over the place

PAGE ONE PD
PAGE TWO NATURE OF SEVENTH SPHERE
PAGE THREE CEREBUS QUESTIONS ILLUSIONIST AIMS CHURCH OF TARKUM
PAGE FOUR ALL-POWERFUL
WHY CHURCH OF TARKUM IS NOT ALL-POWERFUL
CIRINISTS / MATRIARCHY / SPIRIT LIVING CORE / AUKATAN
ORTHODOX TARKUMITES / B. CRATS / MONEY CHANGERS
PAGE FIVE ILLUSIONISTS / ANARCHISTS / HUMANISTS PROPHETS
PAGE SIX CEREBUS: ME IMPORTANT.
PD: YOU WANT TO BE IMPORTANT.
YOU'RE HIDING SOME THING
CAME TO TEST AT ROR
PAGE SEVEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN TEST?
REGENCY WHO DO YOU KNOW THERE.
ILLUSIONISM IS NOT RELIGION OR FANATICAL
CULT. IT IS A WAY OF THINKING
ILLUSIONISTS ~~ARE ALL OVER THE~~ AT REGENCY GASP
ILLUSIONISTS ALL OVER THE PLACE
LIKE CIRINISTS?
NOT LIKE CIRINISTS
PAGE EIGHT: LET'S STOP DANCING WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM
CEREBUS
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE ~~BURNED WITH~~
~~CEREBUS~~... WOULD HAPPEN IF CEREBUS DECIDED
TO BECOME A CIRINIST

HSANB 30/28 - Forcing myself back to the other extreme: the short terse phrases encapsulating each page. "PAGE SIX CEREBUS: ME IMPORTANT" sums it up nicely.

WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DO THAT.
THEY SEEM TO BE ON THE MOVE UPWARD
WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DRINK
SUPPOSE CEREBUS SUBVERTED FROM WITHIN FIFTY YEARS AGO
OPPRESSIVE PARTNERS WOULDN'T ALLOWED TO DRINK. A COUPLE OF
YEARS AGO CEREBUS WON FORTY GOLD COINS FROM LEOPOLD THE
GAMBLING PRIEST. GROUPS HAVE A TENDENCY TO RELAX BEGINNING
THEIR RULES TO INCREASE THEIR
MAYBE THE CIMMIT ARE READY FOR A POPULIST OBJECT OF ADORATION
IT'S A DANGEROUS GAME. LIKE KRYPTON
CEREBUS HAS EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT HE'S SAFE. BE FACT THAT
YOU'RE TAKING SUCH AN INTEREST IN HIM IS VERY REASSURING
YOU FLATTER YOURSELF
NOT SO MUCH AS YOU WOULD HAVE CEREBUS BELIEVE. WHEREVER
CEREBUS' PHYSICAL FORM IS AT THE MOMENT, IT'S BEING WELL-
TAKEN CARE OF. BY SOMEBODY WHO WANTS CEREBUS IN ONE PIECE.
PAGE NINE
CEREBUS HAS ALL THE PIECES HE JUST HASN'T
FIGURED OUT
PAGE TEN PAGE
ONLY TEXT. QUIET. ATMOSPHERE SO THICK YOU CAN CUT
IT WITH A KNIFE.
I'VE TRIED MY BEST TO CONVEY TO YOU. WHAT THE WORLD YOU'RE
LIVING IN IS LIKE. YOU WERE AFTER ALL NOT MUCH MORE THAN A
BARBARIAN WHEN LORD JULIUS GOT A HOLD OF YOU. I'VE FOUND THAT
BARBARIANS TEND TO HAVE SLIGHTLY DISTORTED VIEWS OF REALITY
TO WHAT "PIECES" ARE YOU REFERRING?
THIS AND THAT.
YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
IT MAKES SENSE DOESN'T IT? IF CEREBUS TELLS YOU WHAT PIECES
HE'S GOT, THEN YOU'LL HAVE ALL THE PIECES, TOO.
CEREBUS WANTS TO BE THE ONE TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER

HSANB 31/28 - It's an almost impossible writing task: trying to impart large amounts of information in a dialogue between two people who don't trust each other.



HSANB 33/28 - A more distilled version of "Cerebus on Lord Julius."

PAGE 11 WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THE PIECES TO?

CEREBUS DOESN'T REALLY KNOW -- BUT ENOUGH STRANGE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED IN THE LAST FEW YEARS TO MAKE CEREBUS THINK SOMETHING IS GOING ON

YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST OVERWROUGHT, ~~YOU SEEM TO HEAD~~ THE STRAIN OF MOVING AROUND A LOT. I FIND THE ~~AN EVENT FILLED LIFE~~... WHAT SORT OF "STRANGE THINGS"? SAME THING HAPPENS TO ME

LIKE YOU SAID, NO ONE SEES LORD JULIUS EVERY DAY.

YES -- WELL -- I MIGHT BE MISTAKEN, I'M NOT ~~AN INSIDER~~ PART OF LORD JULIUS' INNER CIRCLE, YOU KNOW.

CEREBUS WAS. AND YOU'RE RIGHT. NO ONE SEES LORD JULIUS EVERY DAY. HIS OUTER OFFICE WAS ALWAYS STUFFED TO BURSTING WITH BUREAUCRATS. BUT CEREBUS NEVER SAW ANYONE BUT HIS APPOINTMENT SECRETARY AND A FEW ODDBALLS IN LORD JULIUS' INNER OFFICE. AND NEVER THE SAME ODDBALL TWICE.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS?

MEANS? ~~IT'S ABOUT PROBABLY NOTHING. IT MEANS SOMETHING~~ IS ONLY BECAUSE IT MEANS CEREBUS IS IMPORTANT, WHAT ELSE COULD IT MEAN?

IMPORTANT TO WHOM, THOUGH.

LORD JULIUS. YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT HAVING LORD JULIUS' EAR IS THE BEST KIND OF INFLUENCE TO HAVE IN PALMUS.

"YOU'RE RIGHT" "YOU SAID" -- WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE ALL OF A SUDDEN THAT I WAS THE BE-ALL AND END-ALL AUTHORITY?

~~PRECISELY~~ WHAT MADE YOU BECOME ALL OF A SUDDEN THAT YOU'RE NOT?

I KEEP MY EYES OPEN AND I HAVE VERY GOOD SOURCES OF INFORMATION, BUT I HAVE TO INTERPRET MOST OF WHAT I HEAR. HOW ~~SURE~~ CAN SAY I'M INTERPRETING CORRECTLY?

PAGE 12 ~~FACT~~ CEREBUS WAS GIVEN A LOT OF MONEY WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE REGENCY. HE WAS EATING DINNER AND THESE ~~BUSINESSMEN~~ MERCHANTS KEPT GIVING HIM BRIBES TO INFLUENCE LORD JULIUS.

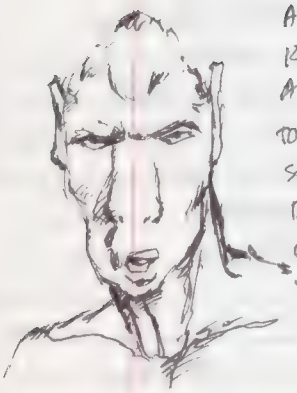
I SEE.

THOUSANDS OF CROWN NOTES. AND CEREBUS ONLY SAW MAYBE A DOZEN OF THE ~~SIX~~ MERCHANTS WAITING TO SEE HIM. MOST OF HIS TIME WAS ~~IMPORTANT~~.

HSANB 33/28 - A more distilled version of "Cerebus on Lord Julius."

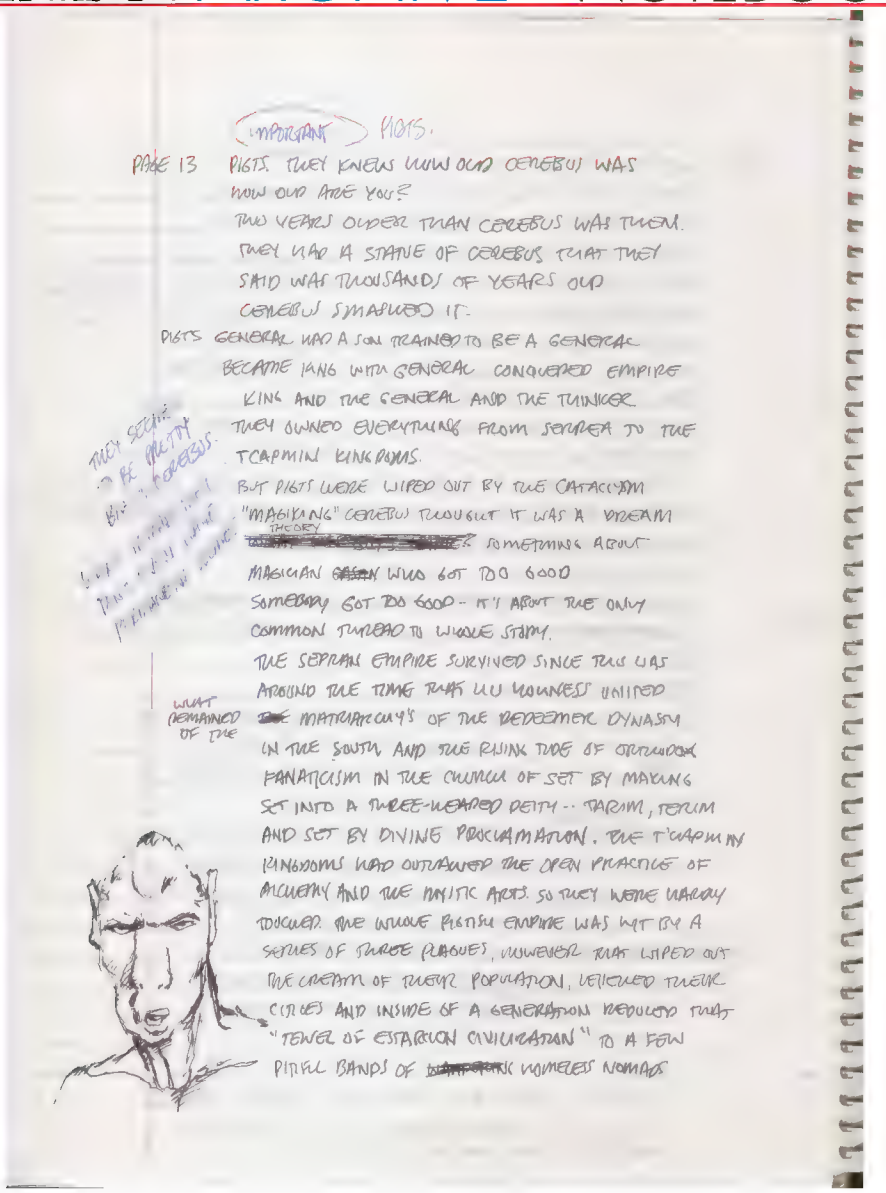
IMPORTANT P10

PAGE 13 PIGTS. THEY KNEW HOW OLD CEREBUS WAS
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
TWO YEARS OLDER THAN CEREBUS WAS THEM.
THEY HAD A STATUE OF CEREBUS THAT THEY
SAID WAS THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD
CEREBUS SMASHED IT.
PIGTS GENERAL HAD A SON TRAINED TO BE A GENERAL
BECAME KING WITH GENERAL CONQUERED EMPIRE
KING AND THE GENERAL AND THE THINKER
THEY OWNED EVERYTHING FROM SERREA TO THE
T'CAPMIN KINGDOMS.
BUT PIGTS WERE WIPED OUT BY THE CATACLYSM.
"MAGICKING" CEREBUS THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM
THEORY
[redacted] SOMETHING ABOUT
MAGICIAN ~~GREEN~~ WHO GOT TOO GOOD
SOMEBODY GOT TOO GOOD -- IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY
COMMON THREAD TO WHOLE STORY.
THE SERRAN EMPIRE SURVIVED SINCE THIS WAS
AROUND THE TIME THAT HU HUMNESS UNITED
WHAT REMAINED OF THE ~~THE~~ MATRIARCHY'S OF THE REDEEMER DYNASTY
IN THE SOUTH AND THE RISING TIDE OF ORTHODOX
FANATICISM IN THE CHURCH OF SET BY MAKING
SET INTO A THREE-HEADED DEITY -- TARIM, TERUM
AND SET BY DIVINE PROCLAMATION. THE T'CAPMIN
KINGDOMS HAD OUTLAWED THE OPEN PRACTICE OF
ALCHEMY AND THE MYSTIC ARTS. SO THEY WERE HARDLY
TOUCHED. THE WHOLE PICTISH EMPIRE WAS HIT BY A
SERIES OF THREE PLAGUES, HOWEVER THAT WIPED OUT
THE CREAM OF THEIR POPULATION, LEVELLED THEIR
CITIES AND INSIDE OF A GENERATION REDUCED THAT
"TOWER OF ESTARCION CIVILIZATION" TO A FEW
PITIFUL BANDS OF ~~BARBARIC~~ HOMELESS NOMADS.



HSANB 34/28 - I didn't often use ballpoint pen in The Albatross but I did here to mark the importance of Po's ignorance of the Pigts' underground city – that the Pigts were just waiting in massive numbers for Cerebus to tell them what to do next. Which seemed a good opportunity to really get into the ancient history of Estarcion:

continued...


IMPORTANT PIGTS.
PAGE 13 PIGTS. THEY KNEW HOW OLD CEREBUS WAS
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
TWO YEARS OLDER THAN CEREBUS WAS THEN.
THEY HAD A STATUE OF CEREBUS THAT THEY
SAID WAS THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD
CEREBUS SMASHED IT.
PIGTS GENERAL HAD A SON TRAINED TO BE A GENERAL
BECAME KING WITH GENERAL CONQUERED EMPIRE
KING AND THE GENERAL AND THE THINKER
THEY OWNED EVERYTHING FROM SERREA TO THE
T'CAPMIN KINGDOMS.
BUT PIGTS WERE WIPED OUT BY THE CATACLYSM
"MAGIKING" CEREBUS THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM
THEORY
SOMETHING ABOUT
MAGICIAN WHO GOT TOO GOOD
SOMEBODY GOT TOO GOOD - IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY
COMMON THREAD TO WHOLE STORY.
THE SEPRAN EMPIRE SURVIVED SINCE THIS WAS
AROUND THE TIME THAT HIS HOLINESS UNITED
WHAT REMAINED OF THE MATRIARCHY'S OF THE REDEEMER DYNASTY
IN THE SOUTH AND THE RISING TIDE OF ORTHODOX
FANATICISM IN THE CHURCH OF SET BY MAKING
SET INTO A THREE-HEADED DEITY -- TARIM, TERIM
AND SET BY DIVINE PROCLAMATION. THE T'CAPMIN
KINGDOMS HAD OUTLAWED THE OPEN PRACTICE OF
ALCHEMY AND THE MYSTIC ARTS. SO THEY WERE HARDLY
TOUCHED. THE WHOLE PIGTISH EMPIRE WAS HIT BY A
SERIES OF THREE PLAGUES, HOWEVER, THAT WIPED OUT
THE CREAM OF THEIR POPULATION, LEVELLED THEIR
CITIES AND INSIDE OF A GENERATION REDUCED THAT
"JEWEL OF ESTARCION CIVILIZATION" TO A FEW
PITIFUL BANDS OF HOMELESS NOMADS

"Pigts General had a son trained to be a general [who] became King with [his own] General [and] conquered [the antecedent to the Sepran] Empire. ["The] King, The General and The Thinker[".] They owned everything from Serrea to the T'Capmin Kingdoms."

"But [the] Pigts were wiped out by the Cataclysm."

"'Magiking' Theory. Cerebus thought it was a dream. Something about [a] Magician who got too good [...or...] somebody got too good. It's about the only common thread to [the] whole ['Magiking'] story."

"The Sepran Empire survived since this was around the time that His Holiness united what remained of the Matriarchies of The Redeemer Dynasty in the South and the rising tide of Orthodox fanaticism in the Church of Set by making Set into a three-headed deity – Tarim, Terim and Set [–] by divine proclamation. The T'Capmin Kingdoms had outlawed the open practice of alchemy and the mystic arts, so they were hardly touched. The whole Pigtish Empire was hit by a series of three plagues, however, that wiped out the cream of their population, levelled their cities and [,] inside of a generation [,] reduced that "Jewel of Estarcion Civilization" to a few pitiful bands of homeless nomads."

"They seemed to be pretty big to Cerebus."

"Wha? [They're] nomads. They don't even have permanent homes."

I did use this but in a greatly modified way: as soon as Cerebus realized that Po thought the handful of Pigts who would emerge on the surface were all that remained of the Pigts, he also realized that this was a potentially potent card he was holding and pretended that the vast underground cities were just small burrows. It stayed a trump card until near the end of CHURCH & STATE I.

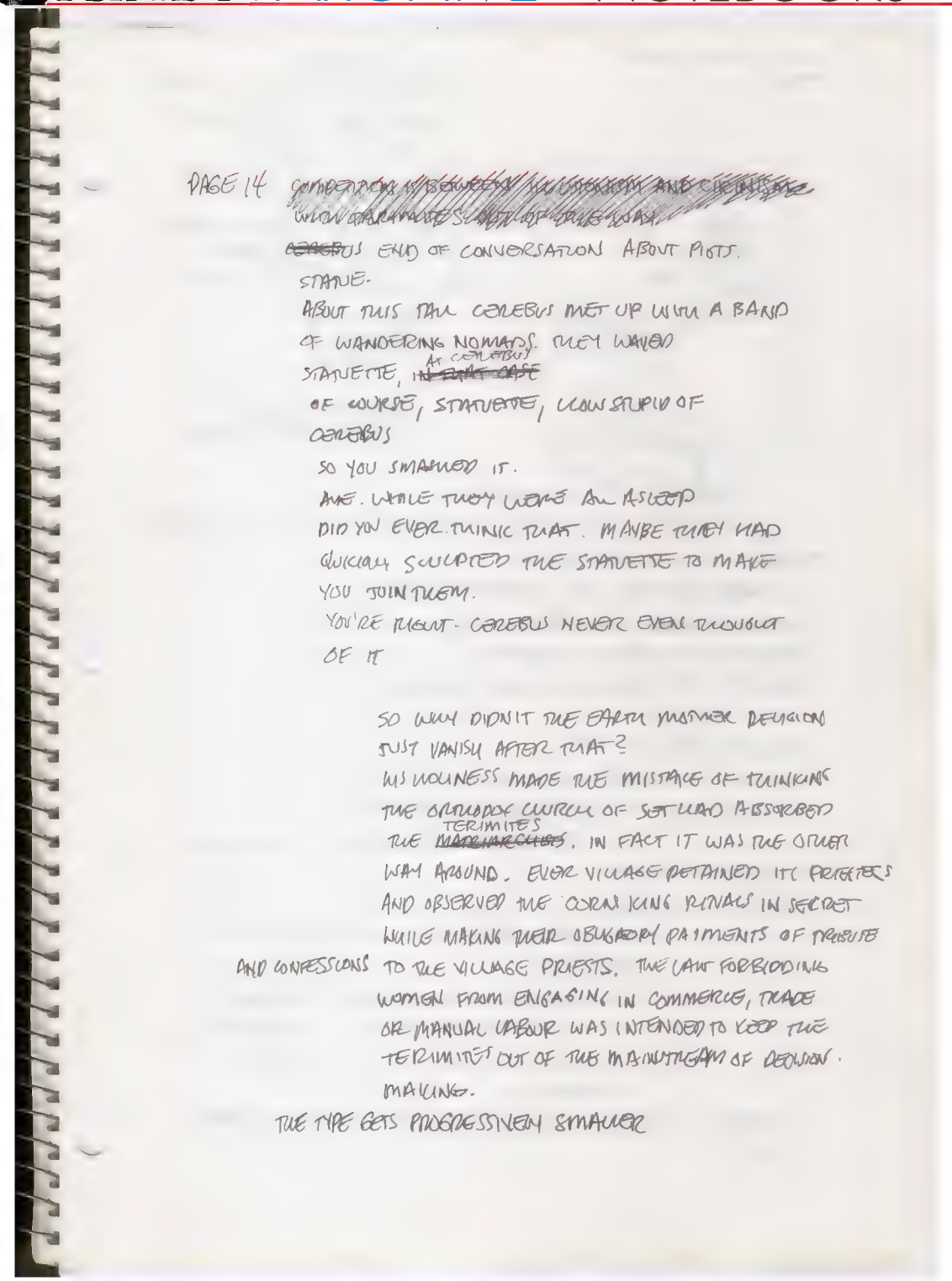
PAGE 14 ~~CONVERSATION BETWEEN [illegible] AND CEREBUS~~
~~WITH OBSERVANCES [illegible]~~

~~CEREBUS~~ END OF CONVERSATION ABOUT PIGTI.
STATUE.
ABOUT THIS TIME CEREBUS MET UP WITH A BAND
OF WANDERING NOMADS. THEY WAVED
STATUETTE, ~~IN EACH CASE~~ AT CEREBUS
OF COURSE, STATUETTE, HOW STUPID OF
CEREBUS
SO YOU SMASHED IT.
AHE. WHILE THEY WERE ALL ASLEEP
DID YOU EVER THINK THAT. MAYBE THEY HAD
QUICKLY SCULPTED THE STATUETTE TO MAKE
YOU JOIN THEM.
YOU'RE RIGHT - CEREBUS NEVER EVEN THOUGHT
OF IT

SO WHY DIDN'T THE EARTH MOTHER RELIGION
JUST VANISH AFTER THAT?
HIS HOLINESS MADE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING
THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SET HAD ABSORBED
THE ~~MARCHARCHIES~~ TERMITES. IN FACT IT WAS THE OTHER
WAY AROUND. EVERY VILLAGE RETAINED ITS PRIESTESS
AND OBSERVED THE 'CORN KING RITUALS IN SECRET
WHILE MAKING THEIR OBLIGATORY PAYMENTS OF TRIBUTE
AND CONFESSIONS TO THE VILLAGE PRIESTS. THE LAW FORBIDDING
WOMEN FROM ENGAGING IN COMMERCE, TRADE
OR MANUAL LABOUR WAS INTENDED TO KEEP THE
TERMITES OUT OF THE MAINSTREAM OF DECISION-
MAKING.
THE TYPE GETS PROGRESSIVELY SMALLER

HSANB 35/28 - Sketching in my modification to HSANB 34/28 at the top of the page.

continued...


PAGE 14
CEREBUS END OF CONVERSATION ABOUT PIGTT.
STATUE.
ABOUT THIS TALL CEREBUS MET UP WITH A BAND
OF WANDERING NOMADS. THEY WAVED
STATUETTE, AT CEREBUS
OF COURSE, STATUETTE, HOW STUPID OF
CEREBUS
SO YOU SMASHED IT.
AHA. WHILE THEY WERE ASLEEP
DID YOU EVER THINK THAT. MAYBE THEY HAD
QUICKLY SCULPTED THE STATUETTE TO MAKE
YOU JOIN THEM.
YOU'RE RIGHT - CEREBUS NEVER EVEN THOUGHT
OF IT
SO WHY DIDN'T THE EARTH MOTHER RELIGION
JUST VANISH AFTER THAT?
HIS HOLINESS MADE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING
THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SET HAD ABSORBED
THE TERIMITES
THE MARCHANCHES. IN FACT IT WAS THE OTHER
WAY AROUND. EVER VILLAGE RETAINED ITS PRIESTESS
AND OBSERVED THE CORN KING RITUALS IN SECRET
WHILE MAKING THEIR OBLIGATORY PAYMENTS OF TRIBUTE
AND CONFESSIONS TO THE VILLAGE PRIESTS. THE LAW FORBIDDING
WOMEN FROM ENGAGING IN COMMERCE, TRADE
OR MANUAL LABOUR WAS INTENDED TO KEEP THE
TERIMITES OUT OF THE MAINSTREAM OF DECISION-
MAKING.
THE TYPE GETS PROGRESSIVELY SMALLER

At the bottom of the page, finishing my thoughts on the Church of Set from HSANB 34/28:

"So why didn't the Earth Mother religion just vanish after that?"

"His Holiness made the mistake of thinking the Orthodox Church of Set had absorbed the Terimites [Cirinists]. In fact it was the other way around. Ever[y] village retained its Priestess and observed the Corn King Rituals in secret while making their obligatory payments of tribute and confessions to the village Priests. The law forbidding women from engaging in commerce, trade or manual labour was intended to keep the Terimites out of the mainstream of decision-making."

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT? CEREBUS?

1 WELCOME BACK
2 SEVENTH SPHERE
3 IMPORTANT - LAST COUPLE OF YEARS
4 ~~CHURCH~~ ~~JESUS~~ ILLUSIONISM
5 WHY BORDER WORLD SITUATION
6 TEST - MONEY POO POO
7 RIOTS - STATUE. POO POO
8 ~~RELIGION~~ PLACE TO THINK MAYBE SOMEONE IS TRYING TO GET CEREBUS TO THINK
18 ORTHO TARIM TIME TO SWITCH?
19 CIRINISTS, ORTHO-TARIMITES ICONICISTS. DANGER
20 INNER CIRCLE ANYWHERE

9 TALKING ABOUT HE. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT CEREBUS

WELCOME BACK

SEVENTH SPHERE - PEOPLE LIKE - CEREBUS DOESN'T - GEMME OUT - NO CAN DO

* CEREBUS HAS ALL THE PIECES

PO KNOWS CEREBUS WAS KIDNAPPED PAGE 10

CEREBUS WON'T TALK ABOUT IT.

CEREBUS HAS INTUITIVE FLASHES

CEREBUS HAS LARGER NOSTRILS THAN MOST PEOPLE

PO IS IN JEST.

REGENCY PANICKS HIM

CIRINISTS ARE GETTING IN ALL OVER THE PLACE

CEREBUS DOESN'T FEEL BOUND TO ANYONE

- MAYBE TAKE BIDS FOR HIS ALLEGIANCE

MORALITY INVOLVED

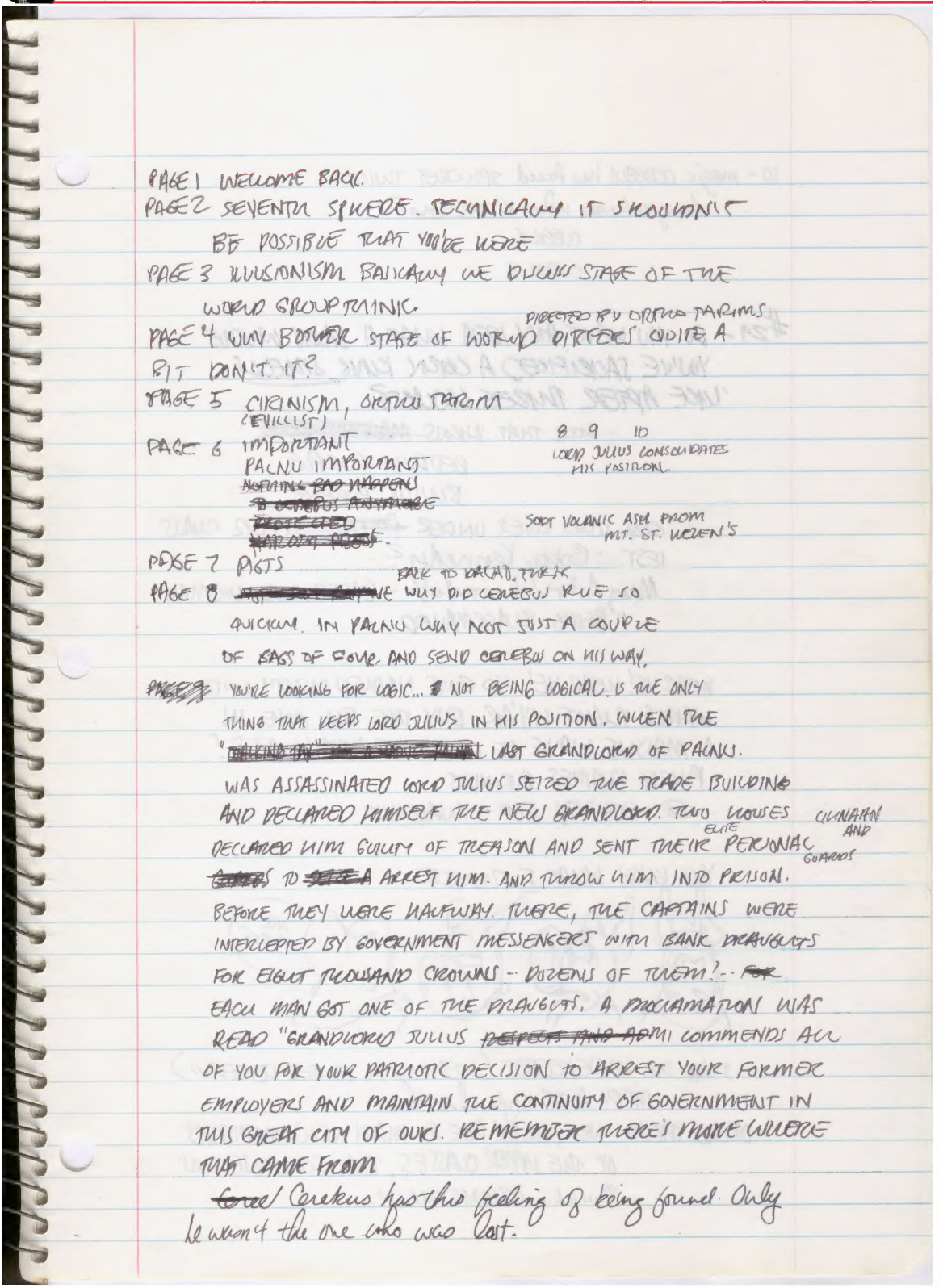
DANGER INVOLVED

CIRIN WAS WIPED OUT HER INNER CIRCLE FOUR TIMES.

HIS ROUNDNESS WAS HIS CLOSEST ADVISORS BURNED FOR HERESY WITH SUCH REGULARITY, IT COULD FORM THE BASIS FOR A NEW CALENDAR.

CEREBUS WOULD BE IN THE INNER CIRCLE WHEREVER HE WENT, EG?

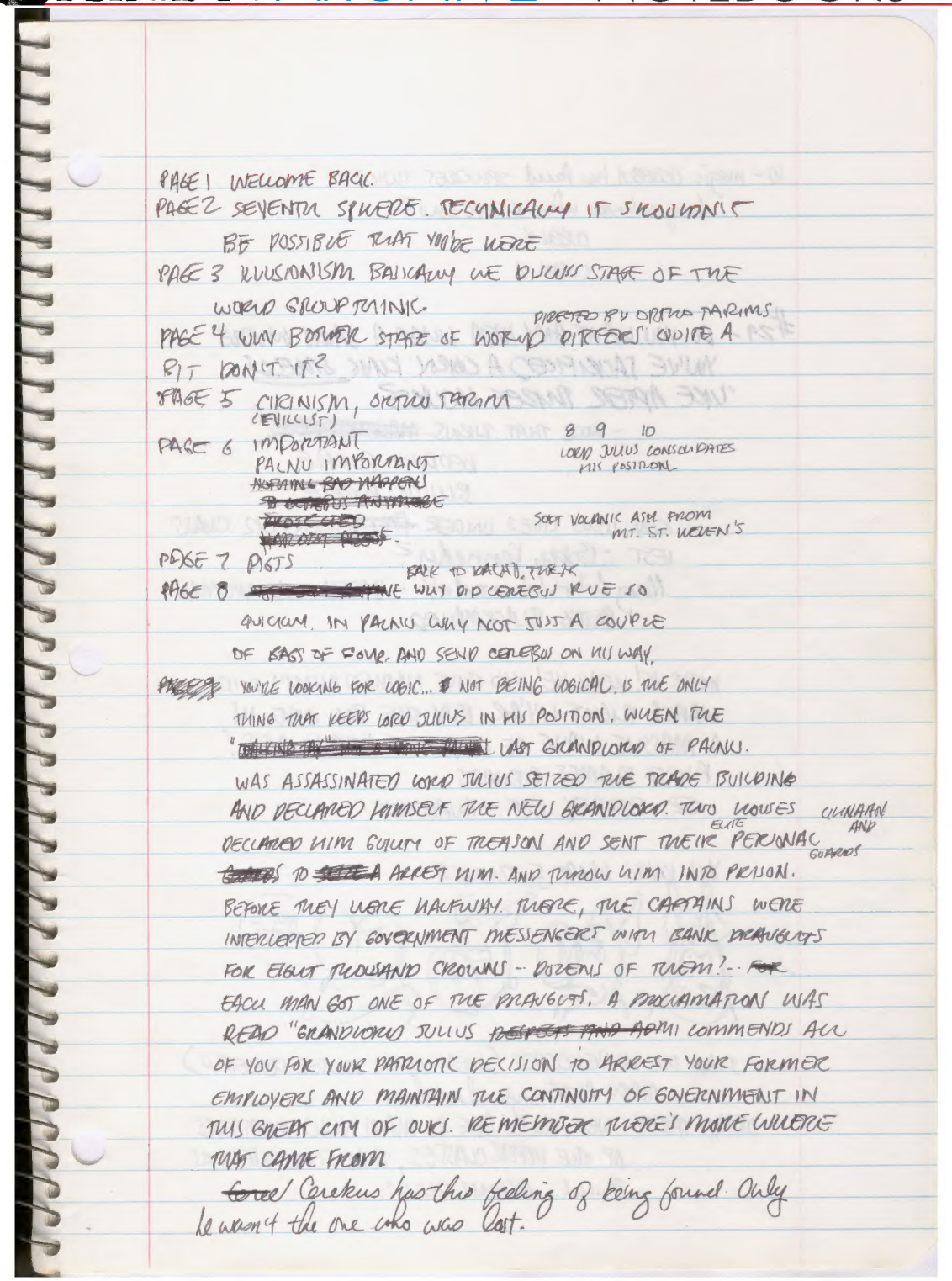
HSANB 36/28 - Mapping out the issue in concise, terse phrases as I'm getting to the point where I need to start drawing page 1 – as can be seen by the little sketch in the upper left corner with its inset white border and drifting Cerebus figures.



PAGE 1 WELCOME BACK.
PAGE 2 SEVENTH SPHERE. TECHNICALLY IT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE THAT YOU'RE HERE
PAGE 3 ILLUSIONISM. BASICALLY WE DIDN'S STAGE OF THE WORLD GROUPTHINK.
PAGE 4 WHY BOTHER STAGE OF WORLD DIRECTED BY ORSON TARIMS DIFFERS QUITE A BIT DON'T IT?
PAGE 5 CIRCINISM, ORSON TARIMS (CEVILIST)
PAGE 6 IMPORTANT PALNU IMPORTANT
8 9 10 LORD JULIUS CONSOLIDATES HIS POSITION.
~~NOTHING BAD HAPPENS~~
~~IS CEREBUS ANYMORE~~
~~PROSECUTED~~
~~HARLEY DIES~~.
SOOT VOLCANIC ASH FROM MT. ST. HELEN'S
PAGE 7 PIGS
PAGE 8 BACK TO BACK. TWEAK ~~[illegible]~~ WHY DID CEREBUS RUE SO QUICKLY. IN PALNU WHY NOT JUST A COUPLE OF BAGS OF COIN AND SEND CEREBUS ON HIS WAY,
~~PAGE 9~~ YOU'RE LOOKING FOR LOGIC... ~~?~~ NOT BEING LOGICAL IS THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS LORD JULIUS IN HIS POSITION. WHEN THE "~~[illegible]~~" LAST GRANDLORD OF PALNU. WAS ASSASSINATED LORD JULIUS SEIZED THE TRADE BUILDING AND DECLARED HIMSELF THE NEW GRANDLORD. TWO HOUSES CLINARIN AND DECLARED HIM GUILTY OF TREASON AND SENT THEIR ELITE PERSONAL GUARDS ~~[illegible]~~ TO ~~[illegible]~~ ARREST HIM. AND THROW HIM INTO PRISON. BEFORE THEY WERE HALFWAY THERE, THE CAPTAINS WERE INTERCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT MESSENGERS WITH BANK DRAUGHTS FOR EIGHT THOUSAND CROWNS -- DOZENS OF THEM?-- ~~FOR~~ EACH MAN GOT ONE OF THE DRAUGHTS. A PROCLAMATION WAS READ "GRANDLORD JULIUS ~~DEFEATS AND ADMI~~ COMMENDS ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR PATRIOTIC DECISION TO ARREST YOUR FORMER EMPLOYERS AND MAINTAIN THE CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT IN THIS GREAT CITY OF OURS. REMEMBER THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM
~~Cerebus~~ Cerebus has the feeling of being found. Only he wasn't the one who was lost.

HSANB 37/28 - One last over-written piece of history and I was ready to improvise all of No.28:

continued...

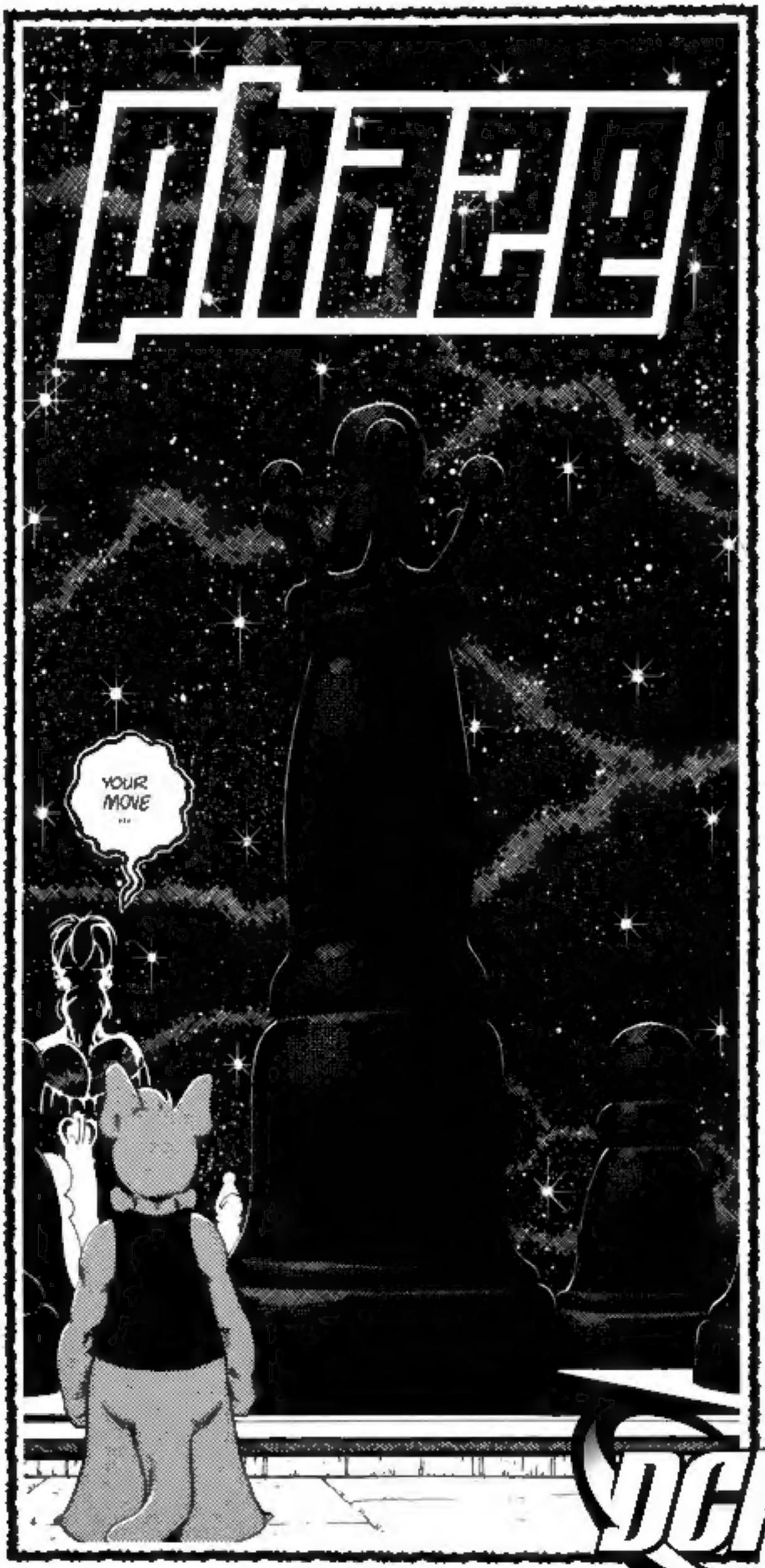


PAGE 1 WELCOME BACK.
PAGE 2 SEVENTH SPHERE. TECHNICALLY IT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE THAT YOU'RE HERE
PAGE 3 ILLUSIONISM. BASICALLY WE DISCUSS STATE OF THE WORLD GROUPTHINK.
PAGE 4 WHY BOTHER. STATE OF WORLD DIFFERS QUITE A BIT DON'T IT? DIRECTED BY OPTICAL PRISMS
PAGE 5 CYNICISM, OPTICAL PRISM (CEVICLIST)
PAGE 6 IMPORTANT
PALNU IMPORTANT
~~NOTHING BAD HAPPENS~~
~~IS CEREBUS AN IMAGE~~
~~PROTECTED~~
~~HARLOT'S HEAD~~.
8 9 10
LORD JULIUS CONSOLIDATES HIS POSITION.
SOOT VOLCANIC ASH FROM MT. ST. HELEN'S
PAGE 7 PIGS
PAGE 8 ~~[redacted]~~ BACK TO DACHAU. THERE WHY DID CEREBUS RUE SO QUICKLY. IN PALNU WHY NOT JUST A COUPLE OF BAGS OF COIN, AND SEND CEREBUS ON HIS WAY,
~~PAGE 9~~ YOU'RE LOOKING FOR LOGIC... NOT BEING LOGICAL IS THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS LORD JULIUS IN HIS POSITION. WHEN THE ~~[redacted]~~ LAST GRANDLORD OF PALNU. WAS ASSASSINATED LORD JULIUS SEIZED THE TRADE BUILDING AND DECLARED HIMSELF THE NEW GRANDLORD. TWO HOUSES DECLARED HIM GUILTY OF TREASON AND SENT THEIR ELITE PERSONAL GUARDS TO ~~SEIZE~~ ARREST HIM. AND THROW HIM INTO PRISON. BEFORE THEY WERE HALFWAY. THERE, THE CAPTAINS WERE INTERCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT MESSENGERS WITH BANK DRAUGHTS FOR EIGHT THOUSAND CROWNS – DOZENS OF THEM?– ~~FOR~~ EACH MAN GOT ONE OF THE DRAUGHTS. A PROCLAMATION WAS READ "GRANDLORD JULIUS ~~DEEPLY APPRECIATES AND ADMI~~ COMMENDS ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR PATRIOTIC DECISION TO ARREST YOUR FORMER EMPLOYERS AND MAINTAIN THE CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT IN THIS GREAT CITY OF OURS. REMEMBER THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM
~~Cerebus~~ Cerebus has this feeling of being found. Only he wasn't the one who was lost.

"You're looking for logic...not being logical is the only thing that keeps Lord Julius in his position. When the last Grandlord of Palnu was assassinated, Lord Julius seized the Trade Building and declared himself the new Grandlord. Two Houses declared him guilty of treason and sent their elite personal guards to arrest him and throw him into prison. Before they were halfway there, the Captains were intercepted by government messengers with bank draughts for eight thousand crowns – dozens of them! – each man got one of the draughts. A proclamation was read: "Grandlord Julius commends all of you for your patriotic decision to arrest your former employers and maintain the continuity of government in this great city-state of ours. Remember [!] There's more where that came from[!]"

DAVE SIM
CEREBUS
DAVE SIM
HIGH SOCIETY
church
tate
church
tate
JAKA
STORY
MELMOTH
FLIGHT
WOMEN
READS
MINDS
GUYS
NICK'S
STORY
GOING
HOME
FARM
VOID
LATTER
DAYS
THE
LAST
DAY

phase



DCP